

# Sermon Notes

## "Certainty": The First Sunday of Advent

Luke 1:1-4

11/27/22

- 1) If you could \_\_\_\_\_ for one thing for those you \_\_\_\_\_ this Christmas, what would it be?
  - a) Would it not be for \_\_\_\_\_ regarding the things they have been \_\_\_\_\_?
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ has become very \_\_\_\_\_ among Christians in recent years.
  - a) Our detractors keep telling us that we should be \_\_\_\_\_, but our God keeps telling us that we should be \_\_\_\_\_.
    - i) For, while \_\_\_\_\_ is fashionable it is not at all \_\_\_\_\_.
    - ii) \_\_\_\_\_ has not contributed to the \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_ of a single Christian in the history of the world.
      - (1) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have, but not doubt – not doubt in the \_\_\_\_\_ teachings of the faith.
      - (2) Can you think of a single example in \_\_\_\_\_ history where the key to the people of God \_\_\_\_\_ facing the challenges of their day was their doubt in what God had revealed to them?!
        - (a) Certainty leads to \_\_\_\_\_; doubt leads to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) Believers who have a high \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ about what they have been taught have:
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_ rather than shame, \_\_\_\_\_ rather than turmoil, \_\_\_\_\_ rather than emptiness, \_\_\_\_\_ rather than apathy, \_\_\_\_\_ rather than disillusionment, \_\_\_\_\_ rather than fear, \_\_\_\_\_ rather than Disobedience...
- 4) Knowing this well himself, it is certainty that \_\_\_\_\_ most desires for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) His \_\_\_\_\_ regarding what he had been taught, is the central purpose for this entire \_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 3-4)
  - b) And that which was \_\_\_\_\_ by Luke to bring certainty to Theophilus has been intended by \_\_\_\_\_ to bring \_\_\_\_\_ to us.
  - c) This year we seek an \_\_\_\_\_ that brings us greater \_\_\_\_\_ by use of Luke's gospel.
- 5) Now, Luke's introduction is important for more than just \_\_\_\_\_ that certainty is the \_\_\_\_\_ of his gospel.
  - a) It also shows us what this certainty \_\_\_\_\_.
    - i) \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_: The quality of being of established authority for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 1-4)
  - a) Luke is not setting out to give Theophilus his \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus.
    - i) Or to somehow, "\_\_\_\_\_" the common understanding among believers.
    - ii) For, there is \_\_\_\_\_ to correct.
  - b) His account will be \_\_\_\_\_ in line with:
    - i) What many who have undertaken to \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ have written, and
    - ii) What those who were \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_ have said, and
    - iii) What the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ have delivered.
  - c) This authenticity helps \_\_\_\_\_ certainty because:
    - i) Luke's sources are \_\_\_\_\_.
    - ii) There is no \_\_\_\_\_, either between Luke and the sources, or between the sources \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d) But this, of course, raises a very important \_\_\_\_\_:
    - i) "\_\_\_\_\_" Luke's gospel will be fully in line with these other sources, \_\_\_\_\_ is he \_\_\_\_\_ it?
      - (1) Because the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ him to.
      - (2) Because Theophilus \_\_\_\_\_ for him to.
        - (a) A narrative account for the purpose of certainty would be \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ audience.
        - (b) Theophilus was a \_\_\_\_\_ and he would need things explained a bit \_\_\_\_\_ than a \_\_\_\_\_.

(c) This, by the way, accounts for why there are both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ between the gospels: Their \_\_\_\_\_ audience.

(i) Luke obviously had \_\_\_\_\_ accounts in hand. (vs. 1)

1. Some of that material he would use \_\_\_\_\_. (no \_\_\_\_\_ concerns☺)

2. Some he would \_\_\_\_\_ for his audience.

3. and other material he would \_\_\_\_\_ from his own investigation or other \_\_\_\_\_.

4. But, all of these things he would be careful to \_\_\_\_\_ to his Gentile audience.

a. \_\_\_\_\_ each step of the way by the \_\_\_\_\_.

5. There are many \_\_\_\_\_ of this, such as **1:8-10**.

a. Here Luke adds \_\_\_\_\_ information for those not familiar with the \_\_\_\_\_.

7) \_\_\_\_\_

a) There is \_\_\_\_\_ information in the gospel of Luke regarding the events surrounding \_\_\_\_\_ (118 verses) than in the other three gospels \_\_\_\_\_. (31 verses)

i) Neither \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_ have any specific information about the \_\_\_\_\_ of his birth.

ii) Matthew begins with Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ (down from Abraham and through David – Jewish audience)

(1) Includes the angel visiting \_\_\_\_\_, and

(2) A \_\_\_\_\_ reference to Jesus' birth.

iii) Other than the visit of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew), which actually occurred much \_\_\_\_\_, the gospel of Luke provides \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ regarding what we know and celebrate regarding Jesus' birth.

iv) And this makes \_\_\_\_\_ sense in that he was writing to someone who was \_\_\_\_\_.

(1) To distinguish from \_\_\_\_\_.

(2) To link to God's \_\_\_\_\_ in the OT.

b) Luke points to his \_\_\_\_\_ in this regard in verse 3, "to write an \_\_\_\_\_ for you."

i) This may also be related to Theophilus' \_\_\_\_\_.

(1) "\_\_\_\_\_ Theophilus," indicates he was perhaps a \_\_\_\_\_ or something similar.

(a) A person for whom \_\_\_\_\_ were \_\_\_\_\_.

(b) Just because all the early sources \_\_\_\_\_, doesn't, by itself, bring certainty.

(c) \_\_\_\_\_ play a critical role too, and if necessary, can be \_\_\_\_\_.

8) \_\_\_\_\_

a) The Greek world was filled with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

b) Both the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of their gods was taught through them.

i) But, they were myths and legends, without any \_\_\_\_\_ connections.

c) Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_.

i) Everything about him, from his \_\_\_\_\_ and birth to his ministry, death, resurrection and ascension have taken place in \_\_\_\_\_ -- "In \_\_\_\_\_." (vs. 1)

(1) These are: "the things that \_\_\_\_\_ among us."

(2) And he \_\_\_\_\_ his account of those things in that very \_\_\_\_\_ and specific way in verse 5. (vs. 5-7)

d) "So, I am not writing to you a myth or a \_\_\_\_\_, or a fairy tale; I am writing to you an orderly account of \_\_\_\_\_ that have happened in our own day, events that have \_\_\_\_\_ the world."

i) "Things about which you can be \_\_\_\_\_."

9) \_\_\_\_\_ are you regarding the things you have been taught?

a) How does it show in your \_\_\_\_\_, peace, \_\_\_\_\_, passion, joy, \_\_\_\_\_, obedience, etc.?

b) Let us \_\_\_\_\_ this certainty that Luke was led to provide for Theophilus and for us.

i) For today, let us ponder the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Luke's work.

(1) For each of them \_\_\_\_\_ to us \_\_\_\_\_ that we can indeed be \_\_\_\_\_ of the things we have been taught.