

Luke: The Analyst
Sunday School Lesson 7
Personality and God's Purpose
Luke 1
7/26/2020

Introduction: Luke is a Bible character to whom little is recorded about in Scripture, yet most Bible students agree that he was the person responsible for recording both the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. While all Scripture is given by the inspiration of God, the Holy Spirit did not eliminate the personality of those whom He used as instruments to record the revelation of God to man. Instead, their distinctive personalities were divinely chosen by God to fulfill the specific message that God has in each book of the Bible. The Gospel of Luke was given by God to provide us with the most detailed account of the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. From the time of the early church until now, It has helped the Gentiles understand how Jesus' ministry was a fulfillment of the Old Testament. The book of Acts was given by God to show us the specifics of what took place in the early church. It complements the epistles by showing us the actions of early Christians as opposed to just the teachings themselves. This helps us tremendously in properly interpreting the New Testament. There was no one better suited in the early church than Luke to be used by God to record these two books of the Bible. He was a very detail-oriented person. He was an analyst. Prior to his conversion, he practiced medicine, a profession that is well-suited for people with an analytical personality. Although we know little about Luke on an individual basis, we can learn some of the key points to how God used his personality by looking at the books of Luke and Acts.

I. LUKE'S PERSONALITY HELPED HIM TO BE A COMPREHENSIVE WITNESS OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE. (LUKE 1:1-4)

- A. Notice that Luke's gospel account was a compilation of what he had been told (Luke 1:2).** While Luke is primarily known as a companion of Paul, it's clear that he also spent much time with the twelve disciples. These men were the primary source of what he knew of Jesus' earthly ministry, aside from what was revealed personally to him by the Holy Spirit of God. It also seems likely that he knew Mary, the mother of Jesus, and received a first-hand account from her of some of the early events of Jesus' ministry. This makes the Gospel of Luke unique compared to the other three Gospels. It was not just the account of one disciple. We do not know when Luke was converted. We do not know when he first met Jesus. What we do know is that he was not one of the initial eyewitnesses of Jesus. Consequently, Luke understood that his account needed to be based on the personal eyewitness accounts of those who had been there from the start. We can picture Luke as a reporter. He wanted to know every detail of what had taken place. Given his physician's background, he likely wrote down much of what he was told. Of course, the Gospel of Luke only contained what was inspired by the Lord. It's likely that Luke had learned much more about Jesus' earthly ministry than just what was recorded in the book of Luke.
- B. Notice that Luke expected that his comprehensive account would be helpful in strengthening the faith of those who heard it (Luke 1:3-4).** The analyst personality likes to have as many details as possible before making an analysis. They are detail-oriented for a reason, as they view all of the details as essential to making a proper determination. As Luke wrote this account to his friend Theophilus, he was confident that the comprehensive account would help solidify what they both believed about Christ. Luke's effectiveness in witnessing was not about charisma. It was not even about being the most eloquent speaker, even though Luke is generally regarded as well spoken. Luke's effectiveness as a witness was based on the completeness of his account. How could someone still choose not to believe after hearing all that took place during Jesus' earthly ministry? For those who have a similar personality to Luke, you can be used as an effective witness. You may not overwhelm someone with your charisma, but your presentation of the details of the Gospel should leave no doubt that Jesus is the true Son of God. There is nothing more powerful than the Truth.

II. LUKE'S PERSONALITY CAUSED HIM TO IDENTIFY THE NEEDS AND FEELINGS OF OTHERS, AND THIS HELPED HIM TO ACT. (LUKE 1:66, 2:19, 51; 2 TIM. 4:11; COL. 4:11)

- A. Notice that Luke gives us a unique perspective into the pondering of the heart (Luke 1:66, 2:19, 51).** While Luke's Gospel account is very historical and detail-driven, that does not mean that It ignores the feelings of those involved. In fact, Luke gives more perspective than any other Gospel book as to what people around Jesus were thinking or feeling. We're told on multiple occasions that Mary, the mother of Jesus, kept certain things in her heart. As an analytical person, Luke wanted to know what the reaction was to Jesus. Most people think of the analytical personality as out of tune with people's feelings, but for many people with this personality type, they have a heightened attention to these

feelings, even if they do not encounter such emotions on their own. They also have a keen awareness to the general needs of others. This awareness is a result of their attention to detail. In Luke's Gospel account, we can clearly see a person who took note of the feelings and needs of others. As believers, we know that it is important for us to identify needs and help others.

- B. Notice that Luke stayed with Paul when everyone else had left him (2 Timothy 4:11; Colossians 4:11).** In Paul's letter to Timothy, he notes that the only person still with him was Luke. People had left Paul for different reasons. Some had left because they loved the world or preeminence. Others left because they had specific responsibilities to carry out. Undoubtedly, there were some who left because they believed that Paul was okay. He did not need their continual companionship. There was only one person who stayed with Paul. It was the person who recognized that Paul needed him. Luke understood that Paul was in a tough place, and he was in real need of companionship. As a result, Luke was able to stay and encourage Paul. It ought not to surprise us that Paul referred to Luke as the beloved physician. Who was it that loved Luke? It was likely all those who knew him and called him their friend. He was a man who paid attention to the needs of others. While his personality helped him to take note, it was his Godly character that caused him to take action. There are some who see the needs and feelings of others, but they choose to do nothing. If God has given you the personality of the analyst, use that detail-oriented personality to take notice of needs and act upon them.

III. LUKE'S PERSONALITY HELPED HIM TO HAVE A GREATER UNDERSTANDING THAN OTHERS (LUKE 1:3, 24:43-45).

- A. Notice that the twelve disciples and the Jews as a whole were slow to understand what the ministry of Jesus was all about (Luke 24:43-45).** We have countless examples that show us just how lacking the disciples were in understanding. In fact, there were very few Jews who truly understood the reason that Jesus came to the earth. Of course, that changed after His ascension and the descension of the Holy Spirit, but even still, there were some believing Jews who struggled to explain the full scope of the ministry of Jesus. This is seen in the book of Acts in relationship to the Law and the Gentiles. Certainly, Peter struggled for a time to put all of the pieces together. This led to a confrontation between him and Paul over the treatment of the Gentiles.
- B. Notice that Luke wrote his Gospel account from a place of perfect understanding (Luke 1:3).** This does not mean that Luke had everything in life figured out, but when it came to the ministry of Jesus, he truly did have perfect understanding to what was taking place. This is seen in the arrangement of events in the Gospel of Luke. The physician starts with John the Baptist and ties in the conclusion of the Old Testament. From there, he gives us a clear presentation of the arrival of the Messiah. It's important for us to recognize that understanding ultimately comes from God (Luke 8:10). There are plenty of analytical people that have no understanding as to what God is doing. This is because they are living in spiritual blindness. The main point here is that the analytical person who submits himself to knowing God and understanding His will may find it easier to be able to see the big picture than others. There's a reason that God chose to use Luke to record one of the Gospels instead of someone like Peter.

IV. THE ANALYST PERSONALITY ALSO HAS SEVERAL CHALLENGES THAT WE MUST BE AWARE OF. (PROVERBS 3:5-6, 18:2; MARK 4:19)

- A. Notice that the analyst personality must be careful not to over analyze the details or situations that they are faced with (Proverbs 3:5-6).** The biggest challenge for the analyst is analysis paralysis. We don't have any examples of Luke struggling with this, but there are plenty of Bible examples of those who did not take action because they thought about all of the reasons not to or why it wouldn't work. Thankfully, Godly analysts submit their thinking to God, so this helps them to avoid situations where their "overthinking" would cause them to be inactive. Ultimately, we must remember that man's understanding and reasoning is limited and is only effective if we put on the mind of Christ. Luke was able to make good analysis because he thought like Christ!
- B. Notice that the analyst personality must be careful to focus his attention where it ought to be (Proverbs 18:2; Mark 4:19).** A person who is detail-oriented may get bogged down in details that are not relevant to where their focus needs to be. The analyst must not let the cares of this world distract them from doing what God wants for them to do. This distraction will only fulfill the lusts of the flesh that seek to discover the sinful heart of man. King Solomon found this out. He determined to analyze every aspect of life. He found no fulfillment in it, and his time was wasted pursuing the data he needed to understand life itself. If you share in an analyst personality with Luke, let me encourage you to give that personality to God. He can use you to be a great witness and encouragement to others.