



Sermon



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
LUKE

1 Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things which have been accomplished among us, ² just as they were delivered to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, ³ it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ that you may know the truth concerning the things of which you have been informed.

5 *In the days of Herod, king of Judaea, there was a priest named Zechariah, ⁶ of the division of Abi'jah; and he had a wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁷ And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. ⁸ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

16 And he will turn many of the Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the power of Eli'jah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.

17 And Zechariah said to his wife, How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years. ¹⁸ And the angel answered him, saying, I am Gabriel, who standeth in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak unto thee, and to testify unto thee, because thou art just; and thou shalt be fruitful, and shalt bear a son.



‘Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering round to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, ‘This man welcomes sinners, and eats with them.’ Then Jesus told them this parable...’

(Luke 15:1-3)





‘The elder brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, “Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!”’

(Luke 15:28-30)

‘All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.’

(Luke 15:29)

“the main barrier between the Pharisees and God is not their [blatant] sins, but their damnable good works.”

Tim Keller

‘For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.’

(Romans 3:20)

‘we know we cannot become right with God by obeying the Law. A man is made right with God by putting his trust in Jesus Christ. For that reason, we have put our trust in Jesus Christ also. We have been made right with God because of our faith in Christ and not by obeying the Law. No man can be made right with God by obeying the Law.’

(Galatians 2:16)

‘Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: “God, I thank you that I am not like other people – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get...”’

‘But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” ‘I tell you,’ said Jesus, ‘that this man, rather than the other, went home right with God.’

(Luke 18:10-14)



**‘Yet to all who did receive him
[Jesus], to those who believed in
his name, he gave the right to
become children of God.’**

(John 1:12)



**‘You endured humiliation
at the hands of those You’d made.
And as hell unleashed its fury
You were lifted on a tree,
crying ‘Father God, forgive them,
place their punishment on me.’**

(Love Incarnate – Stuart Townend)