



# BOB'S WORD OF THE WEEK: LUKE



## BEST NAMES

**Theophilus**, is the "friend of God" to whom Luke's author addresses this gospel.  
**Quirinius**, Governor of Syria, and always ready to stump first-time Christmas Eve service readers with a tricky name!

## COOLEST CHARACTER

**Martha**, yes **Martha**, and not **Mary!** Here's someone that knows how to host a party, and who isn't afraid to advocate for herself. I think responsibility is cool!

## FAVORITE STORY

**Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, and Prodigal Son.** Together, these three stories encapsulate the love, joy, and reconciling spirit of God. It's the very way we'd want the systems of this world to be turned up-side-down.



**"GOD IS NOT A CELESTIAL PRISON WARDEN JANGLING THE KEYS ON A BUNCH OF LIFERS--HE'S A SHEPHERD SEEKING FOR SHEEP, A WOMAN SEARCHING FOR COINS, A FATHER WAITING FOR HIS SON."**  
**CLARENCE JORDAN**




## UNIQUE TO LUKE

- **The Good Samaritan**
  - Jesus offers a universal definition of neighbor
- **Elizabeth and Mary --**
  - Cousins; Miraculous birth stories; Consistent faith
- **A Sequel**
  - Acts tells the story of the early Church



## TIMELINE

The Gospel According to Luke was composed more than 5 decades after the death of Jesus. This community was as far removed from the life of Jesus as we would be from 1966 in 2022.

<b>34 CE</b>	<b>56 YEARS</b>	<b>90 CE</b>
<b>Death of Jesus</b>		<b>Composition of Luke</b>
		
<b>1966 CE</b>	<b>56 YEARS</b>	<b>2022 CE</b>
<b>Best Picture: <i>Sound of Music</i> Caesar's Palace opens</b>		<b>Present Day, Charlotte, NC</b>



## TROUBLESOME STORIES

Of the four Gospels, Luke is the most attentive to including marginalized voices, but that's not a high bar to clear. We do not get extensive details about women like Anna, or Elizabeth, or Mary, and we do not get multiple stories about their lives. Their influence is profound, their witness lasting. But blink, and you may miss them. Give us more, please!

## THEMES (SOME, NOT ALL!)

Jesus as Messiah is central to God's redemptive purpose for the world; Inclusion in God's kin-dom/community is universal -- it is not contingent upon demographics

## IF LUKE WERE A BAND, IT WOULD BE NAMED...

HMM...NOT SO MUCH A BAND NAME, BUT STILL A MUSICAL THEME. LET'S GO WITH LINUS FROM PEANUTS. HE PLAYS A MEAN PIANO, AND IT'S HARD TO FIND ANYONE WHO SHARES A SYNOPSIS OF LUKE 2 AS WELL AS HE DOES.

