

Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary

Gospel of Luke

NT-625

3 Units

Fri. 6:00 – 9:00 PM, Sat. 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

(**Note:** the classes on March 3, 4 will be videotaped for those seniors who attend the senior retreat.)

Prof: Tim Geddert

452-1716 <tgeddert@mbseminary.com>

Feb. 3/4, Mar. 3/4, Mar. 31/Apr.1, 2006

A. Course Description

This course will combine lecture and discussion, interpretations proposed by the professor and inductive Bible studies. It will include critical evaluation of the views of commentators on Luke, but these will not be the major focus.

It will survey the entire Gospel of Luke, noting the narrative and literary flow of the text (the first two weekends). And it will include an analysis of key themes that are highlighted by Luke (the third weekend).

B. Objectives for the Course

This course is designed to help students:

- gain a basic familiarity with Luke's Gospel
- examine closely some of Luke's unique themes
- understand Luke's contribution to the larger canon of Scripture and to a biblical understanding of Jesus
- work on a Lukan text and/or topic of personal interest and prepare a major assignment that can contribute to future ministry.

C. Course Textbooks

Required Text:

Green, Joel B. The Gospel of Luke (NICNT), Eerdmans, 1997.

Byrne, Brendan. The Hospitality of God: A Reading of Luke's Gospel. Liturgical, 2000.

Recommended Books:

Marshall, I. Howard Commentary on Luke (NIGTC) Eerdmans, 1978.

Talbert, C.H. Reading Luke. Crossroads, 1986.

Bailey, K.E. Poet and Peasant and Through Peasant Eyes. Eerdmans, 1983.

Bartholomew, Craig, Joel B. Green, and Anthony C. Thiselton. Reading Luke: Interpretation, Reflection, Formation. Zondervan, 2005.

D. Course Schedule (subject to amendment)

- Feb. 3 Introduction to the course and the syllabus
Introduction to the Gospel of Luke
The Prologue of Luke (Luke 1:1-4)
The Birth and Childhood of Jesus (Luke 1:5 - 2:52)
- Feb. 4 The Preparation for Jesus' Ministry (3:1 - 4:13)
The Ministry of Jesus in Galilee (Part I) (4:14 - 6:49)
The Ministry of Jesus in Galilee (Part II) (7:1 - 9:50)
- Mar. 3 The Way to Jerusalem (Part I)(9:51 - 13:9)
- Mar. 4 The Way to Jerusalem (Part II) (13:10 - 19:48)
Jesus' Ministry in Jerusalem (20:1 - 21:38)
Jesus Passion and Death (22:1 - 23:56)
- Mar. 31 Jesus Resurrection and the Way Forward (24:1-53 and the
continuation of the story in Acts)
- Apr. 1 Key Themes in Luke (Note: you will be making a short presentation on your
research paper during this class)
- Luke's Good News for Social Outcasts
 (e.g. Luke 4:16-30; 6:20-26; 7:36-50; 14:15-24; 16:19-31; 18:9-14; 19:1-
 10)
- Miracles in Luke
 (e.g. 5:17-27; 7:11-23; 8:22-25, 26-39, 42b-48; 9:10-17)
- Parables in Luke
 (e.g. Luke 10:25-37; 15:1 - 16:31, etc.; see Bailey)
- Spirituality in Luke
 (prayer: e.g. 11:1-13; 18:1-8, etc.; worship)
- Discipleship in Luke
 (e.g. 5:1-11; 6:27-36; 9:1-6; 10:1-12; 9:18-27, 57-62; 12:22-31; 14:25-35;
 22:35-38)

E. Assignments

Regular class attendance and participation is required.

Reading: (TIME REQUIRED: 37.5 hours)

1. Read the Joel Green Commentary (863 pages)
 - You are required to read the entire commentary by Joel Green. It is recommended that you read commentary material on specific texts *before* the

texts are encountered in class. However, those who cannot do so, must do so after the texts are encountered in class.

- Estimated time for this assignment 20 hours (43 pages/hr.)
- If you read much slower, you are required to spend a minimum of 25 hours reading in Green, but are excused from reading every word on every page.

DUE DATE:

Material on Luke 1:1 – 9:50 – Feb. 3 (before first class!)

Material on Luke 9:51 – 23:56 – Mar. 3 (before second week-end)

Material on Luke 24 – Mar. 31 (before third week-end)

2. Read the Byrne Text (200 pages: estimated time 5 hours) – Due Date: Mar. 31

3. Read an additional 437 pages from the recommended texts or other literature on Luke (see bibliography below).

- Estimated time for this assignment: 12.5 hours (at 35 pages/hr.)
- DUE DATE: April 7

Written Projects: (TIME REQUIRED: approximately 30 hours for the major project and 10 hours for the minor project)

Each student will complete two projects for this course. Below is a suggested "major project" and a suggested "minor project." If students wish to propose alternative forms of these assignments (suggested alternatives will be discussed in class), they should check first with the prof. and then will need to submit a written proposal to the prof. for an alternative assignment and have it O.K.'d by the prof. before proceeding.

Major Project (unless student proposes an alternative)

Write a major paper (approx. 15 double-spaced pages) on one issue in Luke (drawing on several texts) or else on one text in Luke. Your paper should combine careful interpretation of your text(s), integration of your findings with the overall message of Luke, and theological reflection on how Luke's contribution to Scripture through your text(s) influences our understanding of a significant aspect of Jesus' ministry and/or of faithful Christian living.

DUE DATE: Mar. 31

Minor Project (unless student proposes an alternative)

Keep a log of "important new insights" gained in this course, both through reading and through class content. This can be anywhere from 1 - 3 pages long and may be in point form. Then choose one significant new insight from your list and write up a 3-5 page discussion of the issue. Your write-up should explain your new insight, how and when you gained it, how you would defend it if someone challenged its correctness, and why the issue is important to you and/or important generally for a correct understanding of Luke.

DUE DATE: Apr. 14.

Class Presentation (April 1 – no fooling!)

Students will prepare a 1-page handout summarizing their major paper and make a 5 minute presentation in class on April 1. The presentation will be followed by a short discussion of the text(s) addressed and/or the issue(s) raised in the paper.

DUE DATE: April. 1, 2005

F. Grading

- You will be graded on your two written assignments and on your class presentation.
 - Major Assignment: 60%
 - Minor Assignment: 30%
 - Class Presentation: 10%
- After your grade is determined by these three assignments, it will be adjusted downward if you do not complete your reading on time and/or if your class participation and attendance are inadequate.

G. Academic Policies

Academic Policies. MBBS academic policies (as well as other school policies) are described at <http://www.mbseminary.edu/fresno/policies>. These policies provide guidance on academic integrity and plagiarism, incomplete course work, extensions, dates for changing registration, non-discriminatory and inclusive language, appeals, etc. Students are expected to be familiar with these policies and will be held responsible for adhering to them. If you have questions about how these policies relate to you or to a situation that you face in your studies, please speak to the professor or consult the Registrar or Academic Dean.

H. Bibliography

(see also text books and recommended books above)

Commentaries: (annotation by Richard Ascough, Queens University)

- Craddock, Fred B. 1990. *Luke*. Interpretation. Atlanta: John Knox. A good, pastoral commentary. It is grounded in solid exegesis but aimed at the pastor who needs to preach this material.
- Ellis, E. Earle. 1974. *The Gospel of Luke*. 2nd Edition. Grand Rapids and London: Eerdmans and Marshall, Morgan & Scott. A solid, conservative reading of Luke, somewhat dated.
- Evans, C. F. 1990. *Saint Luke*. Trinity Press International New Testament Commentaries. London and Philadelphia: SCM Press and Trinity Press International. A solid, but quite technical commentary from a historical-critical perspective. Many references to Greek words.
- Evans, Craig A. 1990. *Luke*. New International Bible Commentary 3. Peabody: Hendrickson. A knowledgeable but fairly general commentary, somewhat thin in places.
- Fitzmyer, Joseph A. 1981. *The Gospel According to Luke*. 2 Vols. Anchor Bible 28. New York: Doubleday. By far the best historical critical commentary on Luke. Although now 20 years old many of the observations hold today. There is much reference to Greek, but it is still accessible to the non-user of Greek and is worth looking at for exegetical questions. Fitzmyer is a Roman

Catholic and a Jesuit priest.

- Green, Joel B. 1997. *The Gospel of Luke*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. One of the most up-to-date commentaries on Luke. Green is an evangelical, and sometimes his readings are a bit conservative. However, his interaction with the text is excellent and he is on top of most of the recent secondary literature. It is somewhat technical, but if you are going to purchase a commentary I'd suggest this one will serve you well as a resource.
- Johnson, Luke Timothy. 1991. *The Gospel of Luke*. Sacra Pagina 3. Collegeville: Liturgical Press. A conservative Catholic, Johnson's exegesis is solid and this commentary is very readable.
- Marshall, I. Howard. 1978. *The Gospel of Luke*. New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. This commentary by a British evangelical is well respected in the field, although the secondary discussion is dated. Uses Greek but it still accessible.
- Nolland, John. 1989-93. *Luke*. 3 Vols. Word Biblical Commentary 35. Waco: Word. Solid American conservative, evangelical commentary, highly detailed, particularly in its use of the Greek text. Also available electronically on a CD-ROM.
- Ringe, Sharon H. 1995. *Luke*. Westminster Bible Companion. Louisville: Westminster John Knox. A readable, up-to-date commentary that takes a distinctly feminist perspective and pays attention to the social world of the texts. A good balance to the historical critical emphasis of most other commentaries
- Talbert, Charles H. 1982. *Reading Luke: A Literary and Theological Commentary on the Third Gospel*. New York: Crossroad. A readable commentary from a literary critical perspective.
- Tannehill, Robert C. 1986. *The Narrative Unity of Luke-Acts: A Literary Interpretation*. Vol. 1. *The Gospel According to Luke*. Philadelphia: Fortress. Takes a thematic approach to the study of Luke's gospel and employs a narrative interpretive method. It is a good read and highlights some important issues in the text, but is not easy to use for consulting concerning a particular verse.
- Tannehill, Robert C. 1996. *Luke*. Abingdon New Testament Commentaries. Nashville: Abingdon. This commentary is a nice blend of historical critical, literary, and social world approaches. Because of this wide range it does not treat passages in depth. However, it is accessible and solid. I have used it as a textbook in a Luke course in the past.

Additional Commentaries

- Bovon, François. *Luke: A Commentary on the Gospel of Luke*. 3 vols. Translated by Christine M. Thomas. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2002.
- Byrne, Brendan. *The Hospitality of God: A Reading of Luke's Gospel*. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical, 2000.
- Caird, G. B. *The Gospel of St Luke*. Pelican Gospel Commentaries. Baltimore: Penguin, 1963.
- Danker, Frederick. *Jesus and the New Age according to St. Luke*. Rev. ed. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1988.
- Goulder, Michael D. *Luke: A New Paradigm*. 2 vols. Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series 20. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1989.
- Schweizer, Eduard. *The Good News according to Luke*. Translated by David E. Green. London: SPCK, 1984.
- Tiede, David L. *Luke*. Augsburg Commentary on the New Testament. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1988.

Monographs/Articles

For a helpful annotated bibliography, see:

Green, Joel B. and Michael C. McKeever. *Luke-Acts and New Testament Historiography*. IBR Bibliography Series. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995.

On specific pericopes, see the relevant bibliographies in the commentaries by Bovon, Fitzmyer, Johnson, and Nolland, as well as the sources used by Green.

General/Theology

Bartholomew, Craig, Joel B. Green, and Anthony C. Thiselton. *Reading Luke: Interpretation, Reflection, Formation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

Cadbury, Henry J. *The Making of Luke-Acts*. London: SPCK, 1958.

Green, Joel B. *The Theology of Luke*. New Testament Theology. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

Garrett, Susan R. *The Demise of the Devil: Magic and the Demonic in Luke's Writings*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1989.

Karris, Robert J. *Luke: Artist and Theologian*. Theological Inquiries. New York: Paulist, 1985.

Keck, Leander E. and J. Louis Martyn, eds. *Studies in Luke-Acts: Essays Presented in Honor of Paul Schubert*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1966.

Neale, David A. "None but the Sinners": *Religious Categories in the Gospel of Luke*. Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series 58. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1995.

Neyrey, Jerome H., ed. *The Social World of Luke-Acts: Models for Interpretation*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1991.

O'Toole, Robert F. *The Unity of Luke's Theology: An Analysis of Luke-Acts*. Good News Studies 9. Wilmington: Michael Glazier, 1984.

Talbert, Charles H., ed. *Perspectives on Luke-Acts*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1978.

———. *Luke-Acts: New Perspectives from the SBL Seminar*. New York: Crossroad, 1984.

York, John O. *The Last Shall Be First: The Rhetoric of Reversal in Luke*. Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series 46. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1991.

Narrative-Critical Approaches

Brawley, Robert L. *Centering on God: Method and Message in Luke-Acts*. Literary Currents in Biblical Interpretation. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1990.

Darr, John A. *Herod the Fox: Audience Criticism and Lukan Characterization*. Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series 163. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1998.

———. *On Character Building: The Reader and the Rhetoric of Characterization in Luke-Acts*. Literary Currents in Biblical Interpretation. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1992.

Kingsbury, Jack Dean. *Conflict in Luke: Jesus, Authorities, Disciples*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1991.

Possessions and the Poor

Braun, Willi. *Feasting and Social Rhetoric in Luke 14*. Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series 85. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

Esler, Philip Francis. *Community and Gospel in Luke-Acts: The Social and Political Motivations of Lukan Theology*. Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series 57. Cambridge:

- Cambridge University Press, 1987.
- Gillman, John. *Possessions and the Life of Faith: A Reading of Luke-Acts*. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical: 1991.
- Green, Joel B. "Good News to Whom? Jesus and the 'Poor' in the Gospel of Luke." Pages 59–74 in *Jesus of Nazareth: Lord and Christ. Essays on the Historical Jesus and New Testament Christology*. Edited by Joel B. Green and Max Turner. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.
- Johnson, Luke Timothy. *The Literary Function of Possessions in Luke-Acts*. Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series 39. Missoula, Mont.: Scholars Press, 1977.
- Koenig, John. *New Testament Hospitality: Partnership with Strangers as Promise and Mission*. Overtures to Biblical Theology 17. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1985.
- Moxnes, Halvor. *The Economy of the Kingdom: Social Conflict and Economic Relations in Luke's Gospel*. Overtures to Biblical Theology. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1988.
- Phillips, Thomas E. *Reading Issues of Wealth and Poverty in Luke-Acts*. Studies in the Bible and Early Christianity 48. Lewiston, Ky.: Mellen, 2001.
- Ringe, Sharon H. *Jesus, Liberation, and the Biblical Jubilee: Images for Ethics and Christology*. Overtures to Biblical Theology 19. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1985.
- Roth, S. John. *The Blind, the Lame, and the Poor: Character Types in Luke-Acts*. Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series 144. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1997.
- Seccombe, David P. *Possessions and the Poor in Luke-Acts*. Studien zum Neuen Testament und seiner Umwelt. Linz: Fuchs, 1982.

Women in Jesus' Ministry

- Arlandson, James Malcolm. *Women, Class and Society in Early Christianity: Models from Luke-Acts*. Hendrickson, 1999.
- Corley, Kathleen E. *Private Women, Public Meals: Social Conflict in the Synoptic Tradition*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1993.
- Reid, Barbara E. *Choosing the Better Part: Women in the Gospel of Luke*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1996.
- Witherington, Ben. *Women in the Ministry of Jesus: A Study of Jesus' Attitudes to Women and Their Roles as Reflected in his Earthly Life*. Cambridge University Press, 1984.

Politics and Social Ethics

(in addition see much of the literature on possessions and the poor)

- Cassidy, Richard J. *Jesus, Politics, and Society: A Study of Luke's Gospel*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1978.
- Cassidy, Richard J. and Phillip J. Scharper, eds. *Political Issues in Luke-Acts*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1983.
- Ford, J. Massynbaerde. *My Enemy is My Guest: Jesus and Violence in Luke*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 1984.
- Yoder, John H. *The Politics of Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972.

Eschatology

- Carroll, John T. *Response to the End of History: Eschatology and Situation in Luke-Acts*. SBL Dissertation Series 92. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1988.

- Chance, J. B. *Jesus, the Temple, and the New Age*. Macon, Ga: Mercer, 1988.
- Conzelmann, Hans. *The Theology of St Luke*. Translated by Geoffrey Buswell. New York: Harper & Row, 1961.
- Ellis, E. E. *Eschatology in Luke*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1972.
- Just, Arthur A., Jr.. *The Ongoing Feast: Table Fellowship and Eschatology at Emmaus*. Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical, 1993.
- Mattill, A. J., Jr. *Luke and the Last Things*. Dillsboro: Western North Carolina Press, 1979.

Luke and the Jews/Pharisees

- Brawley, Robert L. *Luke-Acts and the Jews: Conflict, Apology, and Conciliation*. Society of Biblical Literature Monograph Series 33. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1987.
- Darr, John A. *On Character Building: The Reader and the Rhetoric of Characterization in Luke-Acts*. Literary Currents in Biblical Interpretation. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1992.
- Gowler, David B. *Host, Guest, Enemy and Friend: Portraits of the Pharisees in Luke and Acts*. Emory Studies in Early Christianity 2. New York: Lang, 1991.
- Jervell, J. *Luke and the People of God: A New Look at Luke-Acts*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1972.
- Ravens, David A. *Luke and the Restoration of Israel*. Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series 119. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1995.
- Tannehill, Robert C. "Israel in Luke-Acts: A Tragic Story." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 104 (1985): 69–85.
- Tyson, Joseph B. *Luke, Judaism, and the Scholars: Critical Approaches to Luke-Acts*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1999.
- , ed. *Luke-Acts and the Jewish People*. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1988.

Luke and the Scriptures

- Bock, Darrell L. *Proclamation from Prophecy and Pattern: Lucan Old Testament Christology*. Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series 12. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1987.
- Brawley, Robert L. *Text to Text Pours Forth Speech: Voices of Scripture in Luke-Acts*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995.
- Evans, Craig A. and James A. Sanders. *Luke and Scripture: The Function of Sacred Tradition in Luke-Acts*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1993.
- Moessner, David P., ed. *Jesus and the Heritage of Israel: Luke's Narrative Claim upon Israel's Legacy*. Luke the Interpreter of Israel Series 1. Harrisburg, Pa.: Trinity, 1999.
- Tiede, D. L. *Prophecy and History in Luke-Acts*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1980.

Parables in Luke

- Bailey, Kenneth E. *Poet and Peasant: A Literary Cultural Approach to the Parables in Luke*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1976.
- . *Through Peasant Eyes: More Lucan Parables*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980.
- Forbes, Greg. *The God of Old: The Role of the Lukan Parables in the Purpose of Luke's Gospel*. Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series 198. Sheffield: Sheffield

Academic, 2000.

Luke's Central Section

- Matera, Frank J. "Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem (Luke 9.51–19.46): A Conflict with Israel." *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* no. 51 (September 1993): 57–77.
- Moessner, David P. *Lord of the Banquet: The Literary and Theological Significance of the Lukan Travel Narrative*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1989.
- Resseguie, James L. "Point of View in the Central Section of Luke (9:51–19:44)." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 25 (1982): 41–47.
- Talbert, Charles H. *Literary Patterns, Theological Themes and the Genre of Luke-Acts*. Missoula, Mont.: Scholars Press, 1974.

Genre and Sources

- Alexander, Loveday. *The Preface to Luke's Gospel: Literary Convention and Social Context in Luke 1.1-4 and Acts 1.1*. Society for the Study of the New Testament Studies Monograph Series 78. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.
- Marshall, I. Howard. *Luke: Historian and Theologian*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1971.
- Shellard, Barbara. *New Light on Luke: Its Purpose, Sources, and Literary Context*. Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series 215. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 2002.
- Sterling, Gregory E. *Historiography and Self-Definition: Josephos, Luke-Acts, and Apologetic Historiography*. Supplements to Novum Testamentum 64. Leiden: Brill, 1992.
- Talbert, Charles H. *Literary Patterns, Theological Themes and the Genre of Luke-Acts*. Missoula, Mont.: Scholars Press, 1974.

Infancy Narrative

- Brown, Raymond E. *The Birth of the Messiah: A Commentary on the Infancy Narratives of Matthew and Luke*. London: Chapman, 1977.
- Coleridge, Mark. *The Birth of the Lukan Narrative: Narrative as Christology in Luke 1-2*. Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series 88. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1993.
- Farris, Stephen. *The Hymns of Luke's Infancy Narrative*. Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series 9. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1985.

Jesus' Death and Resurrection/Ascension

- Doble, Peter. *The Paradox of Salvation: Luke's Theology of the Cross*. Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series 87. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.
- Green, Joel B. "The Death of Jesus, God's Servant." Pages 1–28 in *Reimagining the Death of the Lukan Jesus*. Edited by Dennis D. Sylva. Bonner biblische Beiträge 73. Frankfurt am Main: Anton Hain, 1990.
- Herrick, Greg. "The Atonement in Lukan Theology in Recent Discussion." *Bible.org*. No pages. Online: http://www.bible.org/series.asp?series_id=111.
- Moessner, David P. "Good News for the 'Wilderness Generation': The Death of the Prophet Like Moses According to Luke." Pages 1–34 in *Good News in History: Essays in Honor of Bo*

Reicke. Edited by Ed. L. Miller. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1993.

Parsons, Mikhail C. *The Departure of Jesus in Luke-Acts: The Ascension Narratives in Context*. Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series 21. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1987.

Tyson, Joseph B. *The Death of Jesus in Luke-Acts*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1986.