

# Notes to Accompany Podcast 28

## CONCLUDING OVERVIEW

From our engagement with the whole of Luke's gospel we can offer some summary comments.

- Luke writes to a diverse, wealthy and poor, community of Jesus disciples. Luke encourages a renewal of their relationships to each other that moves away from status and elitism. Rather, the evangelist encourages asceticism and release of material possessiveness, and to base a renewed gospel household along lines of friendship, not status.
- The evangelist was concerned to show that the growth of the Jesus movement in the time of the gospel writing was a reliable and authentic development under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This was the 'assurance' (Lk 1.4) that the evangelist sought to communicate to gospel auditors.
- One of the key themes that Luke used to link with the audience addressed was that of 'journey'. Luke's addressees were on a journey, from the origin of the Jesus movement in its foundation in Nazareth and Galilee, to Antioch and Asia Minor in the late first century CE. They were no longer predominantly Jewish, but a mix, mainly of Greek speakers, in an urban-rural world dominated by Imperial Rome.
- Luke writes to an urban audience. Its household is dominated by the elite who exercise power over the rest of the household, and within the wider civic community. Luke's Jesus encourages hospitality and conversion. Jesus' table hospitality reflects Luke's encouragement to entertain the socially excluded.
- The gospel portrays Jesus as a figure of wisdom, asceticism, prayer, hospitality and healer. He dies innocently as he offers himself into the hands of God. Communion with God is the essence of Luke's christology.
- The God of the gospel of Luke delights in the whole of creation and all of humanity, irrespective of people's morality, sense of wholeness and goodness. Jesus presents this God in his teaching of the 'reign' (the *basileia-ecotopia*) of God, inclusive of all and everything.
- The disciples in Luke are Jesus' apprentices. They have more compassion, companionship and comprehension of Jesus than the disciples in Mark's gospel.

- Luke emphasizes that the world is a good place, blessed by God, and upon it peace has descended through the birth of the Child of Earth. The goodness of the Greco-Roman world is further confirmed in Luke's second volume, the *Acts of the Apostles*. Paul is the advocate of this positive cultural disposition by Jesus followers.



Luke Paints the Icon of the Mother of God Hodegetria.  
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