



## **The Gospel according to Luke**

### **Good to know**

1. Probably, Luke did not know Jesus personally. At the beginning of the first chapter (Lu. 1: 1-4), he reported that he had carefully investigated everything on the life of Jesus and relied on eyewitnesses to write an orderly account of the events that took place at that time.
2. Although inspired in the same way as the other authors of the Gospels, Luke is the only one to address his Gospel to a man, a friend and a brother in Christ: Theophilus (Lu. 1: 1-4). In addition, Luke, in his Gospel, emphasizes on the perfect humanity of Christ whom he presents as the Son of man with both human and divine nature whose lineage goes back to Adam (Lu. 3: 23-38)
3. Luke, referring to certain Roman dignitaries, is the only one of all the biblical authors to have dated the events he reports. He was determined to keep a close and accurate account of the life of Jesus, which involved placing the facts in their historical context (Lu. 2: 1-2; 3: 1-2).
4. Only Luke provides information on the childhood and adolescence of Jesus, which is reported in Chapter 2. Hence, many researchers believe that Luke would have interviewed Mary, the mother of Jesus, during his research on the life of Jesus.
5. Luke is probably the only non-Jewish New Testament writer. He stressed that the good news of Jesus was for all people, not just for the Jews. From this perspective, he traced the line of Jesus back to the first man, Adam (Lu. 3: 23-38).
6. Luke was known as physician by profession (Col. 4:14), author of the third gospel, Luke, considered to be the longest of the gospels, and of the book of Acts of the Apostles.
7. Luke is the only author who specifies that Jesus began his ministry when he was about thirty years old (Lu. 3:23).
8. Luke presents the genealogy of the Savior which goes back from Mary, his mother, not to Abraham, the father of the chosen people as in Matthew, but to Adam, the father of mankind (Lu. 3:23 -38).
9. The Gospel of Luke contains more parables than the other three. Some parables are reported only by the latter, such as: the two debtors (Lu. 7: 40-50); the rich fool (Lu. 12: 13-21); the pompous guest (Lu. 14: 7-14); the lost coin and the lost son (Lu. 15: 8-32); the unjust steward (Lu. 16: 1-13); the Tax Collector and the Pharisee (Lu. 18: 9-14), etc.



10. Luke is the only one to specify, apart from Paul, that the risen Jesus had made an appearance to Peter (Lu. 24.34; 1 Co. 15.5).
11. Matthew has compiled for us the parables which mostly describe the nature and the future state of the kingdom of God, while Luke focuses on those which reveal to us in the most moving way the mercy of God towards sinners (Lu. 15) .
12. Among the authors of the gospels, Luke alone reported three of the seven words spoken by Jesus on the cross: the first one (Lu. 23:34), the second one (Lu. 23:43) and the seventh one (Lu. 23:46).