

## Ten Things You Might Not Know About Luke

### **1. Luke never met Jesus.**

In fact, none of the evangelists did. After the Resurrection, the Apostles went out to preach the good news, as instructed by Jesus, handing on stories of his miracles, sayings, teachings, and most importantly, passion, death and Resurrection, to the new Christian communities they founded. It was not until after the first Apostles began to die that the next generation of Christians began writing down some of the material they had received. Eventually, people such as Luke pulled this material together into a cohesive Gospel account.

### **2. Luke is also thought to be the author of the Acts of the Apostles, a book which continues the story where the gospel leaves off.**

There is much continuity between the books as many of the same themes found in the gospel are also developed in Acts. In addition, we see the Apostles performing many of the same miracles we saw Jesus perform in the Gospel, highlighting the connection between their ministry and Jesus'.

### **3. It is possible that Luke was at one point one of Paul's travel companions.**

In his letter to the Colossians, Paul relays greetings to the community from several of his companions, including a physician named Luke. From the earliest centuries, many believe this companion to be the evangelist.

### **4. Luke was most likely a gentile from Antioch (Syria) addressing a gentile audience.**

Unlike Matthew, Luke makes few references to Old Testament quotes and explains Jewish traditions, in addition to being attentive to emphasizing that the Gospel message is addressed to all peoples, including gentiles.

### **5. Most of the Gospel of Mark is included in the Gospel of Luke, as this was one of Luke's main sources.**

However, not all Mark's stories are presented in the same chronology or in exactly the same way as we find in Mark.

### **6. The Gospel of Luke is one of the only two Gospels which includes an infancy narrative, the other being Matthew.**

In addition, these infancy narratives are very different. In Luke, it offers a 'mini-Gospel' as we find in it all the themes that Luke develops in the rest of his Gospel.

**7. The ox is the symbol for the Gospel of Luke (often depicted as a winged ox).**

The ox was a valued animal used for sacrifice and, although all four gospels relate the story of Jesus' passion and death, Luke focuses on portraying this passion and death in a sacrificial manner.

**8. We hear the gospel of Luke proclaimed during the liturgical year 'C', the liturgical year we are in currently.**

**9. The Gospel of Luke is one of the three synoptic Gospels.**

"Synoptic" means to see (optic) the same (syn). The Gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke all include much of the same material—miracles, teachings, sayings—and for this reason are similar. However, they all ultimately offer a different portrait of Jesus.

**10. In addition to the Gospel of Mark and to a source with sayings of Jesus (referred to as Q), Luke included other material only he had access to.**

This allowed him to include some stories only found in Luke, beloved stories such as the parable of the prodigal son, the parable of the Good Samaritan, and the disciples on the road to Emmaus, to name only a few.