

NOVEMBER QUIZ ANSWERS

1. What percentage of the New Testament is written by Luke?

- a. **27%.** In the printed NRSV there are some 552 pages. Luke's Gospel takes up 78 pages and Acts, the other book which Luke wrote, takes up 71 pages in all. This means that Luke wrote more than a quarter, 27 % of the New Testament. Paul's pages take up only about 121 pages, so Luke wrote even more of the New Testament than Paul did.

2. What was Luke's profession?

- b. **Physician.** From Colossians 4.10-14 we learn that Luke was a doctor:

¹⁰ Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, as does Mark the cousin of Barnabas, concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him. ¹¹ And Jesus who is called Justus greets you. These are the only ones of the circumcision among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. ¹² Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant^[a] of Christ Jesus, greets you. He is always wrestling in his prayers on your behalf, so that you may stand mature and fully assured in everything that God wills. ¹³ For I testify for him that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. ¹⁴ Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas greet you.

3. Luke faithfully conveyed the Gospel as preached by which person?

- d. **Paul.** The early church believed that Luke stood to Paul much as Mark stood to Peter. Mark gave us in his book the Gospel that Peter preached and Luke has given us in his book the Gospel preached by Paul. The early church father, St Irenaeus wrote: *Luke the follower of Paul recorded in a book the Gospel that was preached by him (Against Heresies 3.1).*

4. Which of the following two statements below can we *not* say of Luke?

A and d. Luke is the only writer in the New Testament who is not a Jew (although some contemporary scholars are questioning this) and he had not seen or known Jesus in the flesh. He had, however, carefully researched, examined and weighed all the evidence that had been written up about Jesus—as he himself tells us in the opening of his Gospel (Luke 1.1-4.)

5. Which events in the Christmas story are unique to Luke's telling of it?

All of the events listed surrounding the Christmas story are unique to Luke's beautiful telling of the story.

6. Which of these women are found in Luke's Gospel rather than in the other three Gospels?

All of these women listed are found in Luke's Gospel. Women, in the time of Jesus, had no legal rights, no education and no part in public life. But Luke's Gospel draws the most beautiful and respectful portraits of women time and again: Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist (1.5,24,25,57,58); Anna, the prophetess (Luke 2.36-38); The widow of Nain (Luke 7.11-17) and the weeping daughters of Jerusalem (Luke 23.27-31).

7. Luke was a friend or compassionate toward which people in his Gospel?

All of those listed: the hated Samaritans (Luke 9.51-56; 10.30-37; 17.11-19); the Gentile centurion (Luke 7.1-10); Naaman the Syrian (Luke 4.25-27) and the dying thief on a criminal's cross (Luke 23.39-43).

8. For Luke, Jesus was the beginning of salvation history. The earlier Gospels thought the end of time was about to come immediately. Luke thought of Jesus as inaugurating the age of the Church. To the others Jesus was the end of history, for Luke Jesus was the beginning of salvation history. He saw the life, death and resurrection of Jesus as the beginning of history.