

HOPE BECKONS

Luke 1:5-25; 57-61

Sermon series on Luke

Background: Different emphases

- Matthew : Jewish - Jesus as King/Messiah
- Mark : First gospel written – the basic story
- Luke : For non Jews (Gentiles) – Jesus and outsiders
- John : Spiritual meanings behind events and teachings

Dark Times - Roman occupation, King Herod as king (not royal, not pure Jew, dependent on Rome, great builder, brutal man with killings in the family: ambitious, jealous, slave to his passions, paranoid.

1. First glimpse of hope – at the Temple in Jerusalem. (not reject the old traditions, start with young)
Luke's gospel begins and closes in the Temple. Acts of the Apostles begins in the Temple too.
Begins at old spiritual home. God has not rejected it. We must not too.
Where to find Him? Go back to Church, old spiritual disciplines
2. God's story of new beginning starts with faithful ones. Humble, those in pain.
Continue to be faithful
3. Silence negativity in our hearts and mouths. Trust Him rather than to focus on our fears.
4. Sometimes God chooses to answer us another way eg John Sung, Billy Graham, Jackie Pullinger
5. Know that God's heart is good: Israel's experience with God- the power of remembrance, of testimonies cf Joshua 4:21-22

EXERCISE:

1. Which of the above points is the Lord highlighting to you?
2. What do you resolve to put into practice this year?
3. Identify two persons who will help you keep the above.