

Sunday Sidebar: May 5, 2019

Background on Luke

It is the year AD 67. We are all gathered together to hear stories of Jesus' ministry from Luke the Evangelist. Luke is taking some time away from the mission field to visit with us...

Luke is a Gentile from Syrian Antioch, a city of commerce and an important political power in the Roman Empire. Currently he is residing in Troas. He doesn't make it home very often as he has been busy traveling and preaching the Good News in the regions of Judea, Syria, Cilicia, and other places along the Mediterranean Sea. Luke is a physician, a writer, an artist, and a student of Greek philosophy and history. He also enjoys music.

Luke and Paul

During those long days when Paul was under house arrest, Luke no doubt took every opportunity to visit with Paul and learn more about his experiences, his many journeys, and the wonderful Lordship of Jesus Christ. And of course, Luke was writing not only the third Gospel, but the book of Acts, as well. The second half of Acts is all about Paul and his missionary journeys, his arrest in Jerusalem, and his long journey to Rome to await trial, after Paul appeals to Caesar (Acts 25.11). And Luke traveled with Paul during some of that time.

It certainly wasn't always easy being Paul's friend, for Paul encountered more than his share of adversity, including beatings and constant slander from people who didn't agree with him or who resented his success. But Luke stayed beside Paul because Luke was committed to finding out and recording the truth about Jesus Christ.

Paul under guard, visiting with Luke

What a wonderful comfort and blessing Luke's friendship and care must have been to Paul! God was using Paul to help Luke write about Jesus; and God was using Luke to help encourage and nurture Paul as he suffered for the Lord. God is so good to all of us, in every circumstance. Do you find God's love and care in your life?