

Introduction (points I wish to make today):

1. "Saving lost people has always been Christ's desire" (19:8-10).
 - a. So if you're feeling lost, it is Christ's desire that you feel found.
 - b. If you're not sure you're lost, it is Christ's desire that you discover your lostness.
2. "Saving lost people is directly linked to Jesus' work on the cross." (23:35-39).
 - a. Lost in this room.
 - b. Those who have been aware of their owner before, we find the very nature of God is that He seeks restoration (Luke 15 and three stories).
3. "Jesus' saving of others through His work on the cross is, therefore, Luke's great theme."
 - a. An opening song of Luke speak of "salvation and redemption."

*Luke 1:68-77 "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people, 69 And has raised up **a horn of salvation** for us In the house of His servant David, 70 As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who have been since the world began, 71 That **we should be saved** from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us, 72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant... 76 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, 77 To give knowledge of **salvation** to His people By the remission of their sins..."*

- b. The narrative of Luke speaks throughout of faith and salvation.

*Luke 6:9 Then Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one thing: Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, **to save** life or to destroy?"*

*Luke 7:49-50 And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" 50 Then He said to the woman, "Your faith **has saved you**. Go in peace."*

*Luke 8:11-12 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest **they should believe and be saved**."*

*Luke 8:35 Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. 36 They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was **healed [saved]**."*

*Luke 8:48-50 And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has **made you well [saved]**. Go in peace." 49 While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher." 50 But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be **made well [saved]**."*

*Luke 9:23-24 Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will **save it**."*

*Luke 9:56 For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but **to save** them." ...*

*Luke 13:23 Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who **are saved**?" And He said to them, 24 "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able."*

*Luke 17:17-19 So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? 18 Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" 19 And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has **made you well [saved].**"*

*Luke 18:25-27 For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." 26 And those who heard it said, "Who then **can be saved?**" 27 But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."*

*Luke 18:40-42 So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, 41 saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." 42 Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has **made you well [saved you].**"*

Jesus' Birth in Relation to His Death

1. "Peace on earth and glory in the highest" (Luke 2:14) and "peace in heaven and glory in the highest" (Luke 19:38-40).
2. Blood being shed as a sign of the covenant (Genesis 17:14; Luke 2:21; Luke 22:20-22);
3. A sacrifice in Jerusalem (Luke 2:22; Luke 23:26-34).
4. Born and killed under night (Luke 23:44-46).
5. **Wrapped in cloths &**
6. **lying in a manger** verses being wrapped following death and being laid in a tomb (Luke 23:50-56);
7. begun in a virgin womb (Luke 1) while buried in a virgin tomb (Luke 23:53).
8. Angels nearby (Luke 22:39-43; 24:7);
9. Less than the best carrying good news (Luke 2:15; Luke 24:1);
10. The Dayspring comes from "on high" (Luke 1:78), and returns thither (24:51).

I think about when it donned on me that the third Star Wars movie "wasn't real." I remember how I felt betrayed, and then...drama didn't seem so "dramatic." ...about the same time as WWF.

I think about "Blue Bloods", and how intense I can get in the middle of an episode when I think, "wait a minute...this isn't even real." Then, I couldn't bring myself out of the story when the kid cop would be brought up on faulty processes, or Danny would be investigated for tampering with evidence, or Erin would be harassed at her home at the threat of her life, or Francis would be mobbed and presumably forced to resign, and I would remember...wait a minute...this is only season 5. I've seen the dust jacket on the next season...and they're all there. Frank is still the commissioner, and Erin is still the AA, and Danny is still the detective and Linda is still his wife, and Pop is still at the head of the table, and Jamie is still walking the beat, and I realize...this has to turn out fine...because I've seen the next season.

Then, there's Sunday night service. Packer's fan. DVR. Jake slipping a few times. T.V. in the coffee shop. Fumble/Interception...it's ok. I know the final score. I heard Tony Evans one time get on this when I was with Walter. You can put up with a lot of grief when you know the final score!

Psalms 118 I shall not die but live and declare the works of the Lord! 2006.

Conclusion:

1. Nobody is "found" aside from faith in the "saving work of Christ." Have you placed your faith in Him?
2. Christ Jesus came to die, and bids us follow. How will you die? Not, "what are you going to do with your life?"