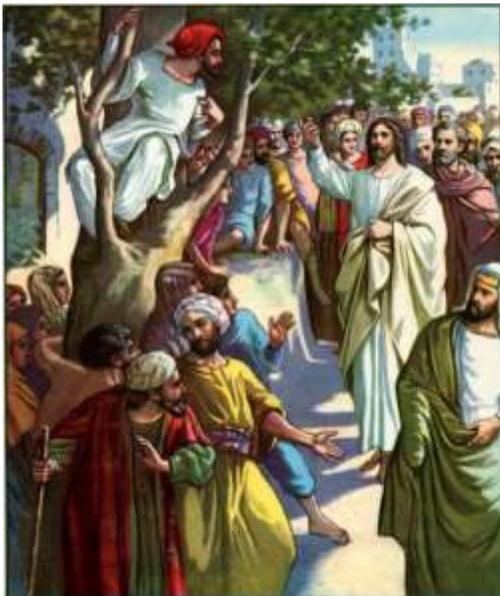


Luke: Jesus Came Seeking

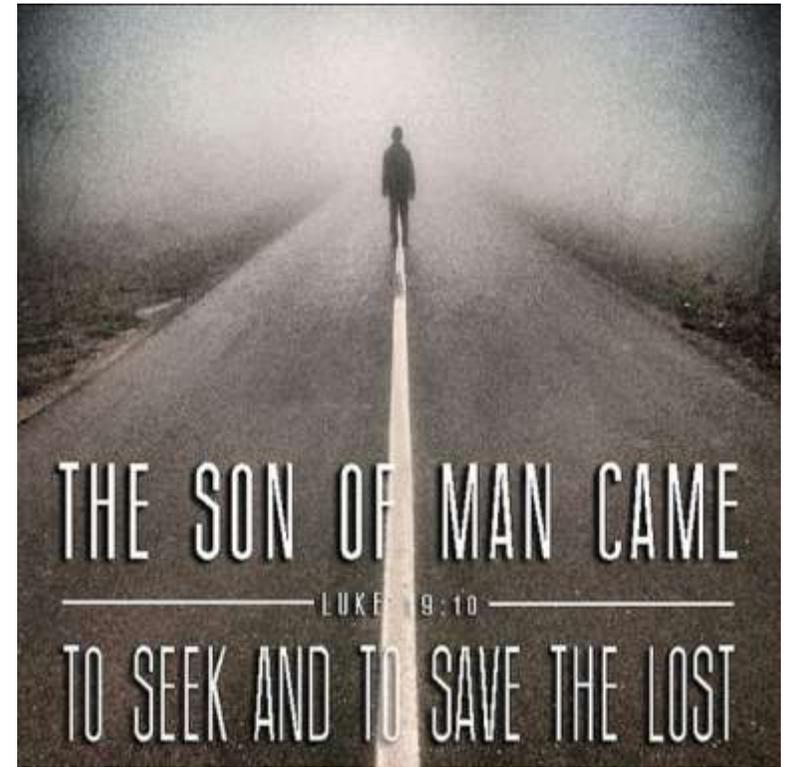
By Bev Kilts

Luke: a gentile by birth, educated in the Greek culture, a physician by profession, a companion of Paul at various times from his second missionary journey to his final imprisonment in Rome (Col. 4:14), a loyal friend to Paul who remained with the apostle after others had deserted him (2 Tim. 4:11). We read in the beginning of his letter that while Luke was not an eyewitness to the ministry of Jesus, he received the gospel from “those who... were eyewitnesses and servants of the word” (Luke 1:2)

From what Luke was told and, later, through his own experiences he writes his letters which become “The Gospel According to Luke”, an account of the teachings of Jesus, followed by “The Acts of the Apostles”, an account of the growth and expansion of Christianity after the death of Jesus. Between the two books the scope of Luke’s writings is complete from the birth of Christ to his ascension. His reason for compiling this precious information into “an orderly account” was “That you may know with the certainty”. He wasn’t saying that previous accounts were inaccurate, he is affirming those accounts. Luke understood that an accurate knowledge of the earthly life of Christ could only strengthen the faith of Christians everywhere. When you get to really know people of deep Christian faith, do you not trust them and listen more closely to their thoughts on spiritual matters? And so today we



read and we listen...Luke is saying, “Believe it! It’s truth!” And even though we are reading his letter far removed in geography and time, the words grab our attention. In chapter 19 we start reading about Zacchaeus, another tax collector (remember Matthew, called to follow Him?), a SINNER! Jesus asks to stay at his home and...Zacchaeus is ready to not only open the door of his home to Jesus, but the door to his heart. (See Rev. 3:20)



Salvation came to Zacchaeus. Now, we read the words that tell us why – why Jesus left his heavenly home to be born in a humble manger – why he came and what difference did it make? Jesus said in Luke 19:10, “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost”,

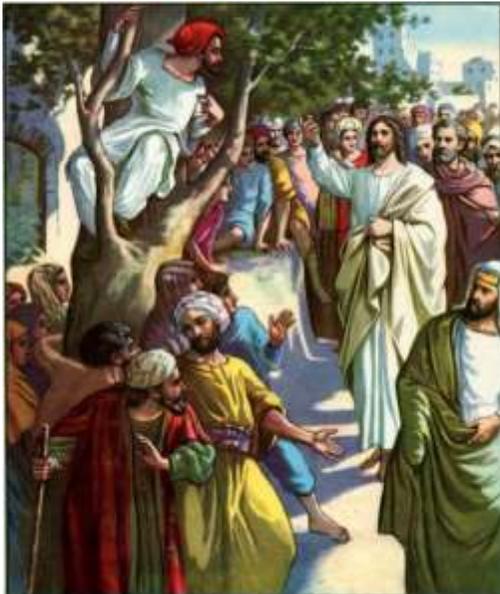
Jesus, Son of God, Son of Man, came seeking – sinners up a tree, by Jacob’s Well, those caught in adultery, blind beggars, self-righteous Pharisees who thought they didn’t need Him, fishermen, politicians, tax collectors, rich men, poor men and on and on and on.....the lost. So what does that mean to me? I’m not too bad. I’m not lost. No??? Read Romans 3:23. And Isaiah 53:6 reminds us that “we have all strayed like sheep. Each has turned to go his own way”. What about those careless, hurtful words we wish we could take back, that foolish decision made in haste, words of faith not shared, thoughts we certainly wouldn’t want voiced aloud. Talk about dumb sheep! But, Praise God, the way to forgiveness, to salvation continues and Jesus is still seeking. It is for us to open the door of our lives to Jesus, our Savior, to acknowledge our sins, and to accept Him as Lord and Savior.

Luke: Jesus Came Seeking

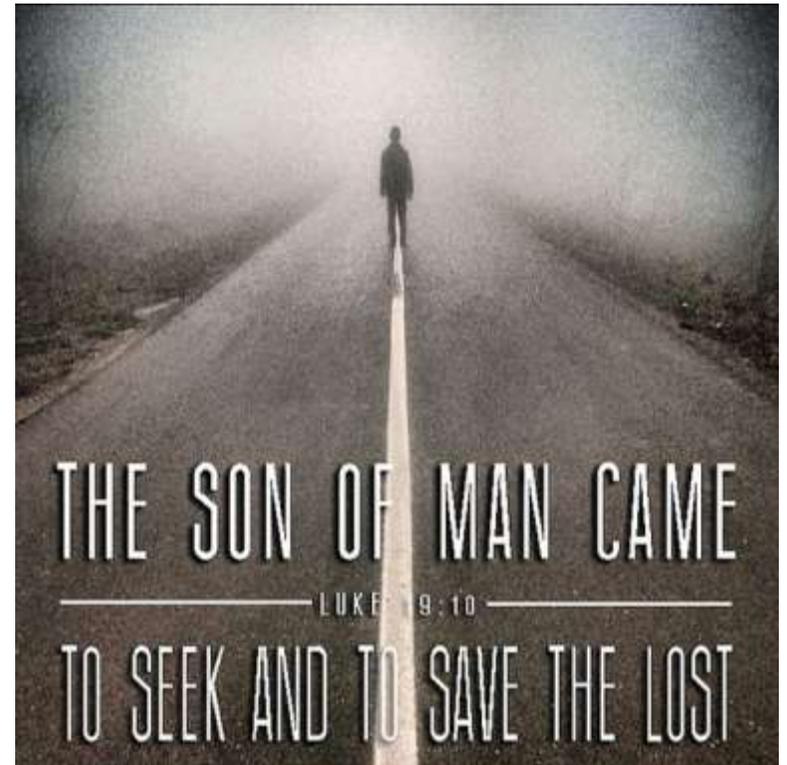
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