



Quaker Universalist Voice

Luke 3–5

Translated for Children

by J.M. Spears

Luke 3:

1. During the fifteenth year that Tiberius was the Caesar, Pontius Pilot was the governor of Judea. Herod was in charge of Galilee. Herod's brother, Philip, was in charge of the place called Ituraea. Lysanias was put in charge of Abilene.
2. While Annas and Caiaphas were presidents of the supreme religious council, John, the child of Elizabeth and Zachariah, was in the wilderness. Understanding of a message from God came to John.
3. And John went into every kind of neighborhood along the Jordan River. John was announcing a clean change to new life, leaving behind a life spent staying away from doing what God wants.
4. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah, one who spoke for God: "The voice of someone crying out in the desert. Get ready to live the way of Yahweh. Walk so the beaten pads of God become straight."
5. "Every valley shall be filled up. Every mountain and hill shall be brought down. Crooked ways shall become straight. The rough roads shall become smooth."
6. "And all people shall know they are safe in God's care."
7. Crowds of people went out to be baptized by John. John said to them, "You children of poisonous snakes. Who warned you to run away from the anger and punishment that is coming? 8. Then, do those things that show a change of life. Do not start to say to yourselves, 'Abraham is our father.' For, I tell you that God is able to bring life even out of these very stones to be children for Abraham. 9. Even now, the ax is already waiting to be used on the root of the trees. Every tree that is not making good fruit is being cut down and thrown into a fire."
10. "And what are we to do?" The crowds asked John.
11. John answered, "Let the one who has two shirts give one of the shirts to a person who has none. And anyone who has food must do the same."

12. People who had bought the right to take tax money and toll money from others also came to be washed in water. "Teacher, what should we do?" they asked.

13. "Do not take more than your orders tell you to take." John said.

14. "What about us, too? What should we do?" Asked some soldiers. "Do not bully others to get money. Do not accuse people of things they have not done. Be content with your pay." John told them.

15. The people were looking for something more. And they were all wondering in their hearts about John. "Perhaps, John is the promised one, the Messiah," each one thought.

16. Speaking to everyone, John answered them, "Surely, I am dipping you in water. But, the one who is coming is so powerful that I am not even big enough to be the servant to untie the strings of this one's sandal. This coming one will dip you in God's mighty wind and purifying fire. 17. The shovel of separation is in hand, ready to throw this threshed wheat in the wind and to gather together the grains into the storage barn. But, the chaff will be burned with a fire that cannot be put out."

18. John taught the people many other things, announcing the good news.

19. John made accusations about Herodias, the wife of Herod's brother. 20. And then Herod topped it all off by shutting up John in prison.

21. And, it happened that, when all the people had been dipped in the water, Jesus was dipped too. Jesus was praying. The place of God was opened. 22. And God's creative force came down upon Jesus. This holy spirit was as real as a dove. And a message came from God, "You are my child! I love you! You please me greatly."

23. Jesus was about 30 years old when he began.

Legally, Jesus was the child of Joseph, who was the child of eli, 24. who was the child of Matthat, who was the child of Levi, who was the child of Melchi, who was the child of Jannai...

who was the child of Joseph, 25. who was the child of Mattathias, who was the child of Amos, who was the child of Nahum, who was the child of Esli, who was the child of Naggai, 26. who was the child of Maath...

who was the child of Mattathias, who was the child of Semein, who was the child of Josech, who was the child of Joda, 27. who was the child of Joanan, who was the child of Rhesa, who was the child of Zerubbabel...

who is the child of Shealtiel, who was the child of Neri, 28. who was the child of Melchi, who was the child of Addi, who was the child of Cosam, who was the child of Elmadam, who was the child of Er...

29. who was the child of Joshua, who was the child of Eliezer, who was the child of Jorim, who was the child of Matthat, who was the child of Levi, 30. who was the child of Simeon, who was the child of Judah...

who was the child of Joseph, who was the child of Jonam, who was the child of Eliakim, 31. who was the child of Melea, who was the child of Menna, who was the child of Mattatha, who was the child of Nathan...

who was the child of David, 32. who was the child of Jesse, who was the child of Obed, who was the child of Boaz, who was the child of Sala, who was the child of Nahshon, 33. who was the child of Amminadab...

who was the child of Admin, who was the child of Arni, who was the child of his Hezron, who was the child Perez, who was the child of Judah, 34. who is the child of Jacob, who is the child Isaac,...

who is the child of Abraham, who was the child of Terah, who was the child of Nahor, 35. who was the child of Serug, who was the child of Reu, who was the child of Peleg, who was the child of Eber...

who was the child of Selah, 36. who was the child of Cainan, who was the child of Arphaxad, who was the child and Shem, who was the child of Noah, who was the child of Lamech, 37. who was the child of Methuselah...

who is the child of Enoch, who was the child of Jared, who was the child of Mahalaleel, who was the child of Cainan, 38. who was the child of Enos, who was the child of Seth, who was the child of Adam...

who is the child of God.

Luke 4:

Luke 4:1 Filled with God's creative force, Jesus went away from the Jordan River. Jesus was led by this holy spirit to the desert for many days. 2. In this lonely place, Jesus was tested by the Separator. Jesus did not eat anything during those days. When the days ended, Jesus was hungry.

3. The Separator said to Jesus, "If you are a child of God, tell the stone to become a loaf of bread."

4. And Jesus answered, "It is written in scripture that people do not live just by eating."

5. The Separator took Jesus up. In an instant, Jesus was shown all the nations on earth.

6. "To you, I will give the right to command and their respect. I can because it has been given to me. I can give it to anyone I please," the Separator said to Jesus. 7. "When you bow down before me as your god, it will all be yours."

8. Jesus answered saying, "It is written in scripture, "You shall bow down before Yahweh your God and you sure work for Yahweh only."

9. And the Separator led Jesus to Jerusalem and set Jesus on the highest point of the Temple. "If you are a child of God, throw yourself down from here," said the Separator to Jesus. 10. "For, it is written in scripture that indeed God will send helpers with orders to take care of you. 11. And they will lift you up in their arms so that your feet will not hit a stone."

12. And Jesus answered, saying, "It also says 'You shall not test Yahweh your God.'"

13. And having finished all of the tests, the Separator left Jesus until the right time.

14. And with the power of God's creative force, Jesus turned toward Galilee. News about Jesus spread through the whole neighborhood. 15. Jesus taught in their meetings and was respected by everyone.

16. and Jesus came to Nazareth where he had grown up. As usual, on the day of rest and prayer, Jesus went into the place of meeting for worship. Jesus stood up to read.

17. Jesus was given a book of Isaiah, one who spoke for God. After opening the book, Jesus found the place where it was written, 18. "Yahweh's spirit has been given to me. Yahweh has assigned a job to me. I have been sent to bring good news to those who are the most poor, to tell prisoners of war that they have been freed, to tell the blind ones that they are able to see again, to send out with forgiveness those who have been broken down, and 19. to announce the time of Yahweh's acceptance."

20. Jesus closed the book. He gave it to the helper. He sat down. The eyes of everyone in the meeting place were on Jesus.

21. Then, Jesus began to say to them, "Today this writing which you have heard has become real."

22. And everyone said it was true. And they were amazed because of the joyous message that came from the mouth of Jesus. And they said, "Isn't this the son of Joseph?"

23. And Jesus said to them, "Probably, you will tell me the old saying, 'Doctor, take care of yourself.' We heard about what happened in Capernaum do the same things here in the land of your parents."

24. "But, believe me," Jesus said, "I tell you that no one who speaks for God is accepted in the land of their parents."

25. "I tell you the truth. There are many women in Israel left without husbands during the days of Elijah. The sky was shut. There was no rain for over three and a half years.

There came great hunger over all the earth. 26. And Elijah was not sent to one of those widows. Instead, Elijah was sent to the town of Zarepath in the land of Sidon, to a woman there who was left without a husband.

27. “And many people who were ill with scabby, peeling skin, were in Israel when Elisha spoke for God. And not one of them was healed. Only Naaman of Syria was healed.”

28. When they heard these things, everyone in the meeting place was full of anger. 29. They jumped up and threw Jesus out of town. And they took Jesus to the edge of the cliff on which their town was built to throw Jesus down. 30. But, passing through the middle of them all, Jesus went on.

31. Jesus went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee. On days of rest and prayer, Jesus taught the people. 32. And they marveled at Jesus’ teaching, because Jesus’ word had authority.

33. And in the meeting place, there was a person with a bad and vicious inner life. 34. The badness screamed as loud as possible, “Hey! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Did you come to put an end to us. I know who you are. You are the one near God.”

And speaking sharply, Jesus said, “Be quiet! Come out and leave!”

35. And throwing the person down before them, the badness came out and left, without doing any harm.

36. and surprise came over all. They said to one another, “What is there in this word? With power and authority, Jesus commands the vicious parts in the inner life. And they come out.”

37. And talk about Jesus went out to all parts of the neighborhood.

38. Jesus got up and left the meeting place* Jesus went into the house of Simon. The mother-in-law of Simon was kept down with a high fever. They asked Jesus to do something for her. 39. Jesus stood over her. Jesus warned* the fever and it left her. Immediately, she rose up and began caring for them.

40. All those who were weak and outcasts for many reasons were brought to Jesus as the sun was setting. Jesus announced their acceptance* by placing hands on each of them. 41. And he badness also came out from many, shouting “You are the child of God!” Jesus warned* the not to speak, because they knew Jesus as the Christ.

42. At the crack of dawn, Jesus went out to a desert place. But, the crowds of people looked for Jesus. When they came to Jesus, they tried to keep Jesus from leaving them. 43. But Jesus said to them “I must go to other towns. It is God’s plan. I was sent to tell the good news that God is the real leader.”

44. And Jesus kept on announcing the good news in the meeting places* of the Jews.

Luke 5:

5:1. Jesus happened to be standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret*. The crowd began to press upon Jesus to hear God's message. 2. Jesus saw two boats on the shore. The fishers were washing the nets near the boats. 3 Jesus got in one of the boats. Jess asked Simon, "Push out again a little way from land". And Jesus taught the crowds while sitting in the boat.

4. After talking, Jesus said to Simon, "Go on out into the deeper water and let down your nets for a catch." 5. And Simon answered "Teacher, all night long we wore ourselves out taking noting. But, on your word, I will let down the nets." 6. They did it; and when they closed their nets, they had so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. 7. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come help them. And they came. And they filled both boats until there were beginning to sink.

8. when Simon Pete saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Leave me alone, Leader, because I am a man separated* from God." 9. For Simon Peter and everyone with him were struck with awe because of the amount of fish they had caught. 10. In the same way, awe struck, James and John, who shared the boats with Sim. James and John were Zebedee's children.

Jesus said, "Do not be frightened, Simon. From now on, you will be gathering in living people."

11. They brought their boats onto the land. They left everything. They followed Jesus.

12. Jesus happened to be in one of the cities. Now Listen! A man was covered with sores*. When he saw Jesus, he bowed his head and begged, "Please, if you want to, you have the power to make me clean."

13. Jesus reached out, touches the man, and said, "I do want to! You are clean! Instantly, the sores* went away.

14. Jesus ordered the man not to tell anyone. Jesus said, "Go back and show yourself to the priest. Because you are clean, make an offering, as Moses said. That will prove it to them."

15. Instead, talk about Jesus spread. Many crowds of anxious people would gather to hear Jesus and to have him help them take* care of themselves.

16. But Jesus went to the desert and prayed.

17. It happened on one of the days when Jesus was teaching. Religious* Separatists and teachers* of religious law, who had come from every village in Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem, were sitting there. Yahweh's power to restore* was in Jesus.

18. Now listen! Men came carrying a cot with a person who had been paralyzed. They wanted to carry it in and put it before Jesus. 19. They found they could not carry the cot through the crowd. They went up on the roof. They let the cot with the person down through the clay tiles into the middle of those gathered in front of Jesus.

20. and seeing their trust, Jesus said “Earthling*, your separations* have been taken away from you!”

21. And the teachers* of religious law and the Religious* Separatists began questioning saying “Who is this who speaks insults? Who has the power to take away separations? Who, but God only?”

22. But Jesus knew what their real questions were. Jesus said to them, “Why are you questioning in your minds? 23. Which is easier to say, ‘Your separations* have been taken from you’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk?’” 24. But, so that people may know that the one born human has authority on earth to take away separations*, Jesus said to the paralyzed one, “To you I say, ‘Get up, take your cot and go to your family!’”

25. At once, the paralytic rose up in front of them, picked up the cot and went back home to family and relatives, honoring God. 26. And amazement took hold of all. They honored God. They were filled with awe, saying, “In this day, we saw the unusual!”

27. After these events, Jesus went to visit a tax and customs official, named Levi, staying in the customs house. Jesus said, “Follow me.” 28. Levi arose and left everything behind. Levi followed Jesus.

29. With his family, Levi made a great meal for Jesus. There were many tax collectors and others, who were social outcasts, eating as guests. 30. The Religious* Separatists and their teachers* of religious law complained to the student* followers of Jesus saying, “Why do you eat with tax collectors and people separated from God?”

31. Answering them, Jesus said, “People who are healthy do not need a healer, but people who are sick do. 32. I have come not to call the ones* who keep God’s laws. But I have come to call the ones separated* from God, to turn to God.”

33. They said to him, “But, the followers of John often fast* and make requests to God. So do the Religious* Separatists. But, all of you eat and drink.”

34. then Jesus said to them, “Attendants at a wedding are not able to make a fast* in the middle of a feast, while the wedding party is with them. 35. But, the days will come when the wedding party is taken from them. In those days, they will fast*.”

36. Jesus told them a short story as an example*. “No one tears a piece of cloth from new clothes to patch old clothes. If that is done, both the new clothes and the old will be torn. New cloth would shrink and tear the old cloth. And no one puts new wine into old

wineskins. If this is done, the fermenting wine will burst the wineskins and the wine will spill and the wineskins ruined. 38. But, new wine must be put into new wineskins. 39. No one who had drunk old is ready to try new. They say, "The old is good."