

1. Jesus is Here! Luke 3-6 (all about Jesus first stepping out in his neighborhood; healing and teaching and the reaction to him and his ministry. Interesting stories; interaction; and excellent teaching fill up these chapters. One thing was for sure)
2. Jesus was Busy
 - a. Demonstrated his power over both the natural and supernatural (he withstood the temptations of Satan and overcame demons and disease. Both were imperative for him to accomplish his mission. The former revealed that Satan held no sway; was not going to be able to dissuade him from his purpose. The latter allowed people to see this was no ordinary man, but one sent from God—it gave validity to his claims and credibility to his teaching)
 - b. Challenged the status quo (which stimulated both pushback and growth. Here Jesus both by word and deed announced something new was up with God—wanting to jolt people out of their spiritual sleepwalk to awaken faith and generate growth. From the healings; to the interaction with home folks; to his calling the disciples; to claims he made about himself—Lord of the Sabbath—Jesus was both received as scandalous and marvelous. The point was to get folks thinking and then following)
 - c. Established his values—Luke 6:49 (known as the Sermon on the Mount—chapter 6 as Luke records it. This was his foundational teaching upon which all else rested. It was unorthodox; dynamic; transformational. Jesus was not your ordinary rabbi. His interpretation and presentation of familiar laws was quite different. Jesus is here—and nothing would ever be the same!)
3. Living out the Text (and it is still not the same—the teachings and actions of Jesus in Luke 3-6 still are provocative and challenging. Over 2000 years later what does it mean for us to read and live out these texts?)
 - a. Utilize the power of God—Romans 8:31; Ephesians 3:20-21; 1 John 4:4 (could have used any number of scriptures—point is that we fail to fully tap into the power demonstrated by Jesus in these texts and now available to us)
 - b. Strive to consistently grow—2 Peter 1:3 (not settling for status quo both in our personal spiritual life and collectively as the church. A healthy relationship with God is one that constantly stimulates us to grow more and more like him—while sharing his blessing with others)
 - c. Practice his life changing values (this is where the sharing comes in—living out the SOM, which is just as unorthodox, transformational and provocative as ever.)
4. (All of this will accomplish in us exactly what Jesus was trying to accomplish then—making) New Wineskins—Luke 5:36-39 (Yes, Jesus was and remains totally transformational—new wine into new wineskins and he had to do what he did to make it happen. Now the process continues with us, How is that going?)