



Advent Reflection for Wednesday, November 30th

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Luke 1: 1-4

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

Reflection by Matt Garklavs:

My first reading of this excerpt amused me because it's so meticulous. The phrase "orderly account" is used twice so we know St. Luke is not messing around! It's almost like he is using this introduction to convince himself to follow through with writing the Gospel.

This sentiment speaks to me on a professional level. I work in an academic library and often find myself giving introductions like St. Luke. My position involves managing large systems and instructing students how to navigate intricate webs of information. I'm comfortable with the complexity of new technology, but struggle to impart this confidence to others. While some parts of my job have improved over the years, teaching remains a source of stress.

This passage also calls to mind the responsibilities we take on as Christians. St Luke is sharing this story out of a sense of duty. The use of the word "truth" in the final sentence is also telling. Perhaps he chose to do this to set the record straight? I

think a lot of us can relate to that mindset when it comes to combating fake news in our current times

Being a Christian puts us on the path to truth and compels us to be kinder to others. Reading this passage reminds me that St. Luke was a Christian like me and creating the Gospel was an act of compassion. This is a model for all of us to live by. When our intentions are sincere and just, the work we do to help others will feel more fulfilling.

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