

ON THE BOOKSHELF

"The Gospel of Luke"

(Lionsgate)

Earlier this year (for Easter), we brought you a review of the DVD "The Gospel of Mark" plus an interview with the producer of a new series of serious, Scripture-based movies. On October 17, Lionsgate presents the third installment in the renowned *Gospel film series*, "The Gospel of Luke" on DVD, Digital HD and On Demand. Shot on location in Morocco with consultation from expert theologians and biblical scholars, and produced by the Lumo Project, "The Gospel of Luke" joins "The Gospel of John" and "The Gospel of Mark".

There are many features that make this series so exceptional. First, the narration for this version is in English, but the movie can be dubbed into any language easily as the actors aren't speaking a modern language, but Aramaic! Second, the actors are all very ordinary in appearance, which is much to its credit. They look like real people, not handsome or beautiful actors. Third, each Gospel movie uses a narrative which is the complete text of that Gospel, so that no words of the Gospel are eliminated. It is the first-ever word-for-word, unedited movie adaptation of the Gospel of Luke.

The Gospel of Luke is especially powerful, for Luke the physician researches the account of Jesus on earth by (apparently) interviewing eye-witnesses, including many of the women in Jesus' circle. Luke is the narrator of events, and sees Jesus as the Savior of ALL people, always on the side of the needy and deprived, the poor and dispossessed and disenfranchised. Seeing middle-eastern types playing the Apostles and Mary and especially Jesus is an amazing experience that really brings you into the more important story ever told.

The sets, the countryside of Morocco (which is dusty and dry just like the Holy Land), the costuming and acting, all make it a unique and highly authentic telling of Luke's story of Jesus the Anointed One. The English narration using the NIV is by British actor Richard E. Grant, and using the KJV by Sir Derek Jacobi. Subtitles are also available in Spanish and English NIV and English in KJV.