

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

The Favorable Year of the Lord

Luke 4: 14-30

Introduction: We noted as Jesus left the wilderness victoriously that the devil departed from Him temporarily to wait for another opportune time. It wasn't long in coming and Satan was not so much concerned with how Jesus was destroyed as THAT He was destroyed. Meanwhile, Luke sweeps over a significant portion of Jesus early ministry to take us to Nazareth for this account of His reception in His own home town.

I. The Narrative: A Prophet is Not Without Honor, Except . . . (Luke 4:14-30)

- A. Jesus eventually comes to Nazareth and to the synagogue of His home town
- B. He is invited to do one of the readings, the second one from the Prophets
- C. All is well until He drills down to their heart: they are amazed at Him but they do not believe Him
- D. They rushed out of church to commit murder!
- E. Jesus miraculously vanishes from their grasp; it is not His time

II. Observations from the Text: Short Lessons & Applications

- A. Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Holy Spirit
 - 1. He is anointed to preach the Gospel
 - 2. His speech and demeanor are different than the carpenter who left there
- B. Jesus goes to the Synagogue on the Sabbath *as was His custom*
 - 1. Regular church attendance was part of His life
 - 2. Even Jesus worshipped with the assembly and listened to Scripture & local teachers
- C. Jesus cuts to the chase and speaks the truth clearly
 - 1. He knew these people well, He could have soft-peddled the message
 - 2. Love compelled Him to speak the truth and to expose their unbelief
 - 3. It is one thing to admire a speaker or teacher; quite another to accept the message

III. The Main Lesson: The Message of The Messiah

- A. The text is Isaiah 61:1-2
- B. The ministry of Jesus is to:
 - 1. To bring good news to the poor and afflicted
(To preach the Gospel to the poor)
 - 2. To bind up the broken-hearted
(To set free those who are oppressed / to heal the broken & shattered)
 - 3. To proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to prisoners
(Recovery of sight to the blind, release to the captives)
 - 4. To announce the favorable year of the Lord (Jubilee)
- C. This is still His ministry today and our message to those without hope
 - 1. There is good news for those whose lives are broken, who live in darkness and bondage
 - 2. This is the favorable year of the Lord
 - 3. And for us there is always healing and recovery in the Savior

Conclusion: Familiarity often breeds contempt. Is it possible that we have become so familiar with the message of the Gospel, even with the Person of Jesus Christ, that we have come to take our relationship with Him for granted? To devalue it? To miss the point even as we go through the motions of worship? What do you need Jesus to do for you today? Do you believe He is able and willing?

And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district. And He *began* teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all.

And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written,

"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."

And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Memory Verses

"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."

Luke 4:18-19 NASB

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Give at least three reasons why it is important to build regular, consistent church attendance into your life?
2. Is it essential that local church leaders and teachers be more mature and advanced than you in knowledge and growth in order the benefit from corporate worship? Explain your answer.
3. What might the men of Nazareth have been thinking as Jesus taught in their synagogue that day?
4. Why do you think Jesus seems to have suddenly changed his focus to point out God's rejection of His own people in several Old Testament situations?
5. How does the prophecy of Isaiah 61 relate to the ministry of Messiah? Does Jesus refer to this passage elsewhere in the Gospels as an explanation of His ministry?
6. Read the conclusion to the message in the outline on the facing page: Has Jesus become rather ordinary to you? In what ways (if any) might you be taking Him for granted or exhibiting unbelief?

And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, "Is this not Joseph's son?" And He said to them, "No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.'" And He said, "Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown. But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land; and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, *in the land of Sidon*, to a woman who was a widow. And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." And all *the people* in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things; and they got up and drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff. But passing through their midst, He went His way.

Luke 4:14-30 (NASB)

NOTES

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MATTHEW 28:18-20