

Luke 4:14-30 – Jesus Rejected In Nazareth

Introduction (vv 14-15)

1. The Gospels are NOT a Biography of Jesus' Life (**John 20:25**)
2. The Gospel writers are Evangelists, bearing Witness to Jesus with One Aim: Safeguard the Message of Salvation in Jesus
3. Time Transpired between Temptation in the Wilderness and Visit to Nazareth: One Year
 - a. Luke's Emphasis is Theology, Not Chronology
 - b. Jesus' Ministry in Galilee – Signs and Wonders, Teaching in the Synagogues (**14-15**)
4. Jesus comes home to Nazareth

Main Idea The cutting truth of God and His Sovereign Will causes the lost, dead heart to murderously reject Jesus, the Lord of Glory.

God's Providence and Ordination (v 16)

1. Jesus lived in the Days of the Synagogue
 - a. Synagogues formed during the Babylonian Captivity and the Jewish Dispersion (*The Diaspora*)
 - b. 586 B.C. the Temple is destroyed by Babylon; Synagogues were formed as meeting places of the Jews for instruction
 - c. 10 Jewish men could form a Synagogue
 - d. The Temple was the place of Priestly duties and Sacrifice, while the Synagogue was the place for Instruction
 - e. Worship in the Synagogue: Singing, Readings, Prayer, Rabbi would do an exposition from the reading
 - f. The *Freedom of the Synagogue*: A traveling Rabbi could come and occupy the pulpit of a Synagogue if in town
 - g. Jesus was able to occupy the pulpit of the Synagogue, since he was recognized as a rabbi
2. God Ordained the creation of the Synagogue and the means by which His people would grow in the Knowledge of God
3. Jesus' custom was to go to Worship Services; Gathering for Church Worship was a regular practice of Jesus – We should!

Jesus' Reading (vv 17-19)

1. Jesus stood – The teacher & the congregation (see **Nehemiah**) would stand for the reading of God's Word; The teacher would face the Temple in Jerusalem when he read
2. Jesus reads about the Anointing of the Holy Spirit on the Messiah, the Redemption and Restoration of the Messiah, the identity of the Messiah from **Isaiah 61:1-2a**
3. Luke's Emphasis on the Holy Spirit
4. **Isaiah 61:1-2a**

- a. Messiah would preach good news, cause the blind to see, etc
- b. Jesus leaves off the vengeance of the Lord – Jesus' first coming was characterized by redemption and salvation
- c. A Gap exists between The Year of the Lord's Favor & the Day of Judgment (**John 12:47-48, 2 Corinthians 6:2**)
- d. The Day of Judgment is still future: Day of Salvation is now

Jesus' Message (vv 20-21)

1. Jesus sits down – The posture of preaching and teaching
2. Imagine: The Incarnate God Expounds His Own Word!
3. Jesus tells the Nazarenes: This Text is about Me – *I am He!*
4. The Scriptures are about Jesus (**John 5:39, Luke 24:44**)

The People's First Response (v 22)

1. The people respond with wonder and marvel at His words
2. Jesus is going over their heads – they do not understand
3. They are the audience: They are the poor, blind, oppressed sinners who need Him for their salvation
4. They know Jesus – *Isn't this Joseph's Son, the Carpenter?* (**Matthew 13:54-57; See also Mark 6**)

Jesus' Confrontation (vv 23-27)

1. He knows their thoughts and attitudes – they are not receiving Him as their Messiah and only want His miracles and signs
2. *Before we take your medicine, prove who you are!*
3. Jesus uses two illustrations to confront their Presumptuousness
 - a. **1 Kgs 17:8-16** – Elijah was only sent by God to one widow in the days of famine – Zarephath of Sidon; not all widows
 - b. **2 Kgs 5:1-14** – Elisha was only sent by God to one leper to heal – Naaman the Syrian; not all lepers
4. Jesus tells them two things: God is not a respecter of persons & He extends grace and gives the Messiah to whomever He wants
5. Just as Elijah and Elisha was not sent to the Israelites, Jesus was not sent to the sinners of Nazareth – this is what Jesus is saying

The People's Second Response (v 28-29)

1. The people respond with murderous anger and hostility
2. Men are by nature God-haters and would murder God if they could – erase Him from their conscience (**Rom 8:7, Col 1:21**)

Jesus' Hour Had Not Yet Come (v 30)

1. No one takes His life from Him (**John 10:17-18**)
2. God's Plan cannot be Thwarted: Jesus will die on the Cross
3. This passage is Frightening: Jesus does not entrust Himself to these people – what are you doing with Jesus?