

Luke 4 pt 3

Luke 4: 22-30

23 He said to them, "You will surely say this proverb to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in Your country.'" 24 Then He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country. 25 But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land; 26 but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, in the region of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian."

28 So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, 29 and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. 30 Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way.

1. In our last study, we looked at Jesus returning to Nazareth
2. Why is He in Nazareth in the first place? Why His hometown?
 - a. To teach us that ministry must be the same at home as in other places
 - b. What I do at home and what I do away from home should be the same
 - c. We are to be the same person in all places
 - d. **Illustration:** One blistering hot day when they had guests for dinner, A Mother asked 4-year old Johnny to say Grace. "But I don't know what to say!" the boy complained. "Oh, just say what you hear me say" his mother replied. Obediently the boy bowed his head and mumbled, "Oh Lord, why did I invite these people over on a hot day like this?"
3. Jesus read from Isaiah 61
 - a. **The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He has anointed Me**
 - i. To preach the gospel to the poor
 - ii. To heal the brokenhearted
 - iii. To proclaim liberty to the captives
 - iv. The recovery of sight to the blind

- v. To set at liberty those who are oppressed
 - 1. To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord
- vi. Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing
- b. In this sermon about the Messiah's arrival, He is showing great Grace
- c. He's giving His town's people the opportunity to hear directly from Him that **He is the fulfillment** of all of the O.T prophecies

I. Grace rejected

II. Grace extended

I. Grace rejected

1. While some spoke well of Him and were amazed at the gracious words that He spoke
 - a. Others asked, isn't this Joseph's son?
2. None of the hearers saw themselves as poor or captive or blind...
 - a. Only those who see themselves this way will cry out for mercy and be saved
 - b. Some were praising Him for His amazing ability to communicate
 - i. Many speakers will be content with the audiences approval their teaching style
 - c. Others despised the fact that their hometown boy is now teaching them
3. **They are missing the point of what He's trying to communicate by ignoring the message and debating on His character**

- a. Some like Him, while others belittle Him
 - i. They are about to miss His point
- 4. They're about to miss it because they are **familiar** with Him
 - a. **Familiarity** is a big obstacle for us in our spiritual journey
 - b. It's where we dismiss what someone is saying because we know them
 - i. A parent
 - ii. A child
 - iii. A friend
 - iv. A brother in church
 - c. Familiarity breeds contempt:
 - i. **It's easy to not pay attention to those we know**
 - ii. God may want to use this person to speak to you
 - d. I pray that we don't make the same mistake and say, "God can never use that person to speak or minister to me"... "I know them"
- 5. The people of Nazareth though they knew Jesus
 - a. **Knowing about Jesus and knowing Him are 2 different things**
 - i. Knowing about Him is having information
 - ii. Knowing Jesus personally is having a relationship with Him
 - b. One who knows Jesus realizes; the more you know Him, the more you want to know Him
- 6. They began criticizing the messenger and avoid the message

7. **Jesus knows what they are thinking**
8. So He mentions 2 examples to clarify the truth of His message
 - a. **Real love speaks the truth**
 - b. **Even if it means they may reject Him and His message**
 - i. **Even if His life is at risk**
 - ii. **This is how much He loves them**
9. **You will surely say this proverb to Me, physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in Your country**
 - a. "Prove your worth as a physician" or "Heal your own people rather than outsiders."
 - b. They wanted to see the miracles they heard about in other towns
 - c. They wanted to see Jesus put on a show for them
10. **More than being familiar with Him, they had certain expectations of the coming Messiah**
 - a. It's clear they were expecting another person with another message
 - b. This humble son of a carpenter that grew up in their town doesn't exactly fit the profile
 - c. They're looking for another Joshua, David...
 - i. Set up an earthly kingdom and reign as before
 - ii. To take down the Romans and regain freedom
 - iii. They were so preoccupied with having God change their external situation that they missed God.

11. Sometimes I'm expecting God to do something in a certain way in my life as if I'm writing the script

12. God often does things in a not so expected way; As a baby in a manger

a. Growing up in Nazareth: Can anything good come out of Nazareth?

b. I may be expecting God to show up in a particular way (ONLY)

c. Perhaps to solve a certain problem for me first...

i. Help me financially, relationally, emotionally, vocationally...

13. Some were offended because they thought they knew Him,

a. Others had expectations of Messiah looking and being a certain way

b. Still others were offended due to their pride

14. **Pride**

a. What are you trying to teach me?

b. What's wrong with my life that you are trying to fix things?

i. I'm not poor

ii. I'm not brokenhearted

iii. I'm not afflicted

c. Pharisees had the same problem

i. They thought they knew it all.

ii. Pride comes before a fall...

15. **A prophet is without honor in his own hometown**

a. Like Elijah & Elisha who were not accepted either

b. He brings up a time where Israel was at one of their lowest points

i. The people were as far away from God as possible

c. They are linking the Messiah with the glory days,

- i. and He's linking their day as one of the lowest
- d. They are rejecting Him

II. Grace extended

1. Grace and truth go hand in hand
2. Jesus gives them 2 examples out of their own history to teach them a lesson
 - a. This lesson is to try wake them up from thinking they are OK
 - b. He speaks to them about gentiles and how they received grace
3. Elijah and the widow **1 Kings 17:8-16**
 - a. **Elijah was a mighty prophet in Israel**
 - i. He prayed that it would not rain and there was 3.5 years of drought
 - ii. People suffered and were in desperate need
 - iii. The Lord supernaturally provided from Elijah with the ravens until the brook dried up
 - iv. God told him to go to Zeraphath where a widow would help him
 - v. This story speaks of humility and obedience for both Elijah and the widow
 1. What do you mean a widow will provide for me
 - a. I'm a man, I'll take care of myself
 - b. Why do I need to rely on others?

2. You want me to go to a gentile, to a woman, a widow?
 - a. This makes no sense
3. Widows don't have SSI checks each month, they have nothing
4. This poor widow has no options and was on the verge of death
5. **God heard the silent cry of her heart and sent Elijah with a promise of sustenance**

vi. Elijah began small by requesting a cup of water - in a drought

1. When he saw her obedience, he requested some bread
2. She told him all she has is a little flour and oil
3. In honoring the man of God in faith, she received a miracle

b. **The moral of that story is God honors faith**

i. **Genuine faith has corresponding action**

ii. **2 Chronicles 16:9** The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him

iii. **God will move heaven and earth for those who place their faith in Him**

4. Elisha and Naaman **2 Kings 5:1-19**

a. Naaman was a Syrian general who often raided surrounding countries including Israel

i. Jews hated this man for taking their children captive

b. He was a mighty warrior but also a leper

i. **Leprosy is a type of sin in the Bible**

c. Naaman believed the report about the God of Israel & sought a healing

d. Although things didn't work like he thought, he humbled himself and did as he was told

e. **Naaman believed in the God of Israel that day**

5. **The moral of that story is**

a. God loves and cares for all people

b. God honored the faith & obedience of a gentile leper

c. **In both cases, the widow and warrior needed God and He met them at the point of their FAITH**

6. Jews despised gentile nations, especially the oppressors

a. They believed the gentiles were used to keep the fires of hell going

b. They despised lepers.

i. Lepers were cursed by God and rejected by the community

c. Women were considered second class citizens

7. Here Jesus uses the example of women, gentiles, the oppressors & the leper

a. No wonder why they hated His words and wanted to kill Him

b. **Romans 10:19** ... "I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry."

8. Their rejection doesn't stop His mission

a. **He will continue and finish the work set before Him**

b. **They missed their blessing because of their**

i. **Unbelief**

ii. Their being too familiar with the messenger

iii. Their pride

9. I pray that we have faith in what God is saying to us

10. I pray we appreciate both the familiar & unfamiliar messengers

11. I pray that we choose humility and find grace