



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of September 5, 2021

Please use these questions to stay connected as a church to meditate on the same sermon preached from God's Word this week. May this be a fruitful time for the building up of our church and for the spread of the gospel.

Sermon Text

Luke 4:14-30

14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. 15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. 16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." 20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." 22 And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" 23 And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Physician, heal yourself." What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well." 24 And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. 25 But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, 26 and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 And there were many lepers[a] in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." 28 When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. 29 And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. 30 But passing through their midst, he went away.

If you were not able to listen to this week's sermon, then please refer to this link to listen prior to answering these questions, <http://hawaiichurch.org/sermononline>

Summary

After almost a year of ministry, mostly in Judea, the southern region of Israel, Jesus heads north towards His hometown of Nazareth. Here the Son of God makes a stunning revelation to his countrymen that He is the long awaited Messiah. Met by unbelief, Jesus rebukes the Jews with two stories from their past in which God sends His blessing to the Gentiles because Israel refused to believe. This infuriates the Jews and they attempt to kill their Messiah. But Jesus simply walks away.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think people have a hard time acknowledging greatness in a person whom they consider either below them, or their equal? Why is it difficult for older brothers and sisters when their younger siblings surpass them in skill, intellect or accomplishment? What is at the root of this?
2. In what ways do you think Jesus could have been more sensitive to the needs and feelings of the Jews as He made His Messianic proclamation? Do you think it might have been more effective at winning the Jews to Himself if He had been just a little more “politically correct”? Why do you think Jesus went “straight for the jugular” in addressing the Nazarethites’ pride?
3. Why do you think it was Jesus’ custom to be in the synagogue with God’s people, worshiping and sitting under the teaching of God’s Word every Sabbath? Is it right to correlate Jesus’ custom with today’s believer? Why or why not?

4. Why is it critical that all people understand that their sin has impoverished, imprisoned, blinded, and oppressed every sinner? What is the sinner's only hope? Why do you think so many people reject this hope? Do you think this kind of rejection occurs even within the church? If so, how?

5. The Jews in Nazareth were infuriated when Jesus implied that God's blessing would go to believing gentiles instead of unbelieving Jews. What "nerve" did Jesus' words touch, that so infuriated the Jews to the point of murder? How do you see this same behavior in people today?