

Why Should I Care?
Luke 4.14-30

Begin your study this week by reading Luke 4.14-30 and then answer as many of the following questions you can. As I said on Sunday, after this incident, Luke narrates a series of stories that culminates in Luke 7.21-22. That "bookending" underscores the significance of what Jesus is announcing in our own passage. While keeping in mind our clear charge to continue Jesus' work by making disciples, this story points out the other way we must do that. The second way is also integral to our work as a church. The church's challenge is to not neglect one for the sake of the other.

Pastor Eric

When Jesus announced, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4.21), what do you think the people in Nazareth expected him to do next? How might their expectations of the Messiah have differed from what Jesus actually came to accomplish? Why the violent reaction against Jesus' references to the stories of Elijah and Elisha? (1 Kings 17 and 2 Kings 5).

Jesus seemed particularly drawn to people who were overlooked, rejected, or marginalized. What does that reveal about God's character? Who are the people in our communities who are most likely to be overlooked, ignored, or pushed to the margins?

We often think of salvation primarily in terms of conversion and going to heaven. Why do you think Jesus was concerned with all the dimensions of human life rather than focusing exclusively on people's spiritual needs?

The biblical picture is of a new creation and the resurrection of our bodies (read Romans 8.23–24 and 1 Corinthians 15.42). How might that change the way we understand God's ultimate plan of salvation? If God intends to redeem and restore the whole person—not just our souls—how should that shape the way we treat our own bodies, our relationships, our communities, and the people around us?

Clearly, our ministry must be holistic. How can we hold together both our responsibility to make disciples, and our call to demonstrate practical love, without neglecting either? What are some practical ways that our church can bring freedom, healing, dignity, and hope to people in our community?

Think about the people God has already placed in your life—in your school, workplace, neighborhood, or family. What might it look like to demonstrate love to them in a tangible way in the name of Jesus Christ?