

THE HOMETOWN REJECTED

CORE PASSAGE: LUKE 4:16-30

CONTEXT

Luke 4 contains a couple of well-known milestones in Jesus's ministry, such as Jesus's temptation in the wilderness. Then Jesus began His ministry in Galilee. Based upon the parallels from the other Gospel accounts, Jesus had already called His disciples and performed miracles at this time. His reputation and authority were spreading amongst the Jewish people. The people in Jesus's hometown of Nazareth, however, would have their own opinion on this matter.

KEY CONCEPT

Jesus's identity and the gospel message can lead to rejection.

As you examine Luke 4:16-30:

- Note that Jesus identified Himself as the Anointed One whom Isaiah said would preach good news and set the captives free.
- Reflect that Jesus's hometown questioned His identity and authority after He preached grace for Gentiles.



TIMELINE

Jesus Is Tempted in the Wilderness (Luke 4:1-13)

SESSION STUDY: Jesus Is Rejected in Nazareth (Luke 4:16-30)

Jesus Heals a Leprous Man (Mark 1:35-45)

Jesus Ministers in Galilee (Luke 4:14-15)

Jesus Demonstrates His Authority in Capernaum (Mark 1:21-34)

Daily Readings

- Day 1:** Luke 4:14-30
- Day 2:** Luke 4:31-44
- Day 3:** Luke 5:12-16
- Day 4:** Luke 5:17-26
- Day 5:** Luke 5:27-39
- Day 6:** Psalm 31



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

LUKE 4:16-21

JESUS FULFILLED SCRIPTURE AS THE MESSIAH, THE ANOINTED ONE.

Underline the things the Spirit anointed Jesus to do.

16 He came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. As usual, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. **17** The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him, and unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written: **18** The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, **19** to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. **20** He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on him. **21** He began by saying to them, "Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled."

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

CHRIST AS PROPHET: As one of His offices, Jesus fulfills the role of prophet: He alone is the ultimate teacher and has the words of eternal life (John 6:68). Jesus is also God's ultimate revelation of Himself, the very Word of God (John 1:1).

Key Concept: Jesus's identity and the gospel message can lead to rejection.

Jesus frequently went to the synagogue on the Sabbath. On this particular day, He was given the opportunity to read the Scripture passage. He stood up and read Isaiah 61:1-2. Jesus's reputation and miraculous works had already caused people to question His identity. Could Jesus, in fact, be the Messiah? Through Isaiah's prophecy, Jesus confirmed His identity as the anointed Savior who came to preach good news to the hopeless. The captives would be set free from sin. The blind would see, not just when He healed them physically but when they saw the spiritual truth that Jesus is Lord. It was the year of the Lord's favor because His Son had come.

What does Jesus's habit of attending the synagogue teach us?

Jesus sat down immediately after reading Scripture and said that day Isaiah's prophecy had been fulfilled. We are privileged to know the entire narrative of Scripture, but imagine the perspective of the people in Nazareth. They just heard Jesus claim that He fulfilled this prophecy. Jesus, the son of a carpenter, claimed to be the Christ. His hometown of Nazareth was not a place of high prestige. Even Nathanael, one of Jesus's disciples, asked, "Can anything good come from

Nazareth?" (John 1:46). Jesus's humble beginnings show us an unexpected Savior full of grace and truth. The people were looking for a Savior who would come with high accolades and would establish an earthly kingdom independent from Roman rule. But Jesus came to rescue captive souls from sin. Knowing that Jesus is the fulfillment of Scripture is a joyous hope and confirmation of His identity as the Messiah.

How does Jesus's claim from Isaiah and His miraculous works affect how you see your mission?

VOICES FROM CHURCH HISTORY

"You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon, or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."¹

—C. S. Lewis (1898–1963)

PERSONAL PREPARATION

LUKE 4:22-30

JESUS WAS REJECTED WHEN HE PREACHED A MESSAGE OF GRACE TO ALL.

Highlight the examples that Jesus gave of God's work in the lives of Gentiles in the Old Testament.

22 They were all speaking well of him and were amazed by the gracious words that came from his mouth; yet they said, "Isn't this Joseph's son?" **23** Then he said to them, "No doubt you will quote this proverb to me: 'Doctor, heal yourself. What we've heard that took place in Capernaum, do here in your hometown also.'" **24** He also said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. **25** But I say to you, there were certainly many widows in Israel in Elijah's days, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months while a great famine came over all the land. **26** Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them except a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. **27** And in the prophet Elisha's time, there were many in Israel who had leprosy, and yet not one of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." **28** When they heard this, everyone in the synagogue was enraged. **29** They got up, drove him out of town, and brought him to the edge of the hill that their town was built on, intending to hurl him over the cliff. **30** But he passed right through the crowd and went on his way.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophetic words as One who would come to preach good news and release the captives, not just for the Jews but also for the Gentiles. The gospel is for all people, and salvation is for anyone who chooses to believe.

Key Concept: Jesus's identity and the gospel message can lead to rejection.

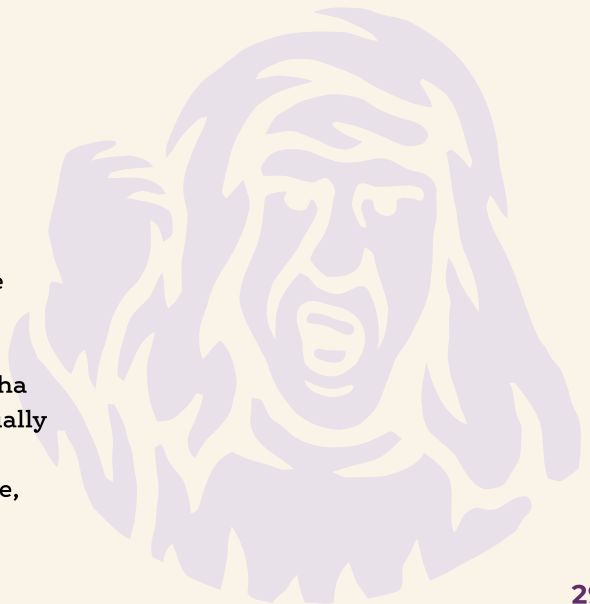
Jesus's declaration caused amazement among the people. Again, Jesus just said He fulfilled Scripture. But the people then began to question His origin. They wondered, "This was Joseph the carpenter's son, right?" Their question of Jesus's kinship implied their doubt of His claim to be the fulfillment of prophecy as the Messiah. Jesus, knowing their doubt, called them out on their contempt. Their hearts would not believe unless they saw the same signs and wonders He performed in Capernaum. If He could do miracles there, surely He could do so in His hometown. Doubting God can lead us down a road of contempt toward God. Doubting Christ's sufficiency leads us to look at things we think are better. Trusting in the identity and sufficiency of Jesus is essential to the Christian faith.

How can you find assurance of Christ's identity, sufficiency, and grace?

The Jews of Jesus's day believed they alone were special because they were God's people. Yet Jesus shared with the listeners in the synagogue a couple of Old Testament examples in which God extended grace through Elijah and Elisha toward Gentiles when the Jews continually rejected God (see 1 Kings 17:8-24; 2 Kings 5:1-14). Jesus's point was simple,

profound, and authoritative—the grace of God is given to the Gentiles also. This revelation enraged the people so much that they drove Jesus out of the town with the intent to hurl Him off a cliff. Yet Jesus's identity and authority over the angry mob were displayed as He simply passed through them unharmed. The same truth that Jesus told them is still applicable today. Salvation from sin and an eternal relationship with God is freely offered to anyone who believes in Jesus Christ alone. What a blessing! What wonderful grace!

Why was Jesus rejected by His own people? How is He still rejected today?



THE LORD'S ANOINTED

Read the Bible passages below. Compare the similarities and differences between Isaiah's prophecy and Jesus's message in Nazareth.

ISAIAH 61:1-2

LUKE 4:18-19

How does Jesus's proclaiming good news and freedom give you comfort?

What part can you play in bringing the good news to the oppressed?

Key Concept: Jesus's identity and the gospel message can lead to rejection.



HEAD

Why do people have a hard time accepting the facts of Jesus's identity even though He has shown Himself to be true?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 31. Thank God for His protection and deliverance because of His faithful love. Jesus came to heal and restore. Praise Him as He is our rock and fortress. Rejoice and plead daily for God's grace to cover you.



HEART

What can you do when doubts arise about God, Scripture, or your faith?

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



HANDS

How can you be faithful in sharing Jesus Christ with a world that may be apprehensive to Him?

