

Bible Stories for Adults

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

Luke 4:14-30

Opening

Gathering: How do people immediately respond when a local person becomes famous?
Is celebrity long or short-lived?

Today's Focus: Jesus reveals His ministry to his hometown neighbors who quickly reject Him.

Key Verses: *The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me.* Luke 4:18

Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing. Luke 4:21

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Luke's Historical Story of Jesus (*Luke 1*)

What was Luke's purpose in writing his gospel?

Acts 1:1-2

Did he do this because no one had done so before?

Luke 1:1-4

How did he begin his story of Jesus?

Luke 1:13, 17

How else did Luke show that God put the story of Jesus in motion?

Luke 1:30-34

Jesus' Childhood (*Luke 2*)

How did Luke clarify that Jesus was a real human and not an apparition of God?

Luke 2:6-7, 10-12

What are the first stories we have of Jesus after the shepherds visited Him on His birthday?

Luke 2:21-26, 36a

What details did Luke give of Jesus' childhood in Nazareth?

Luke 2:40

Did Luke give us any stories to give us an idea of how Jesus was as a boy?

Luke 2:42-43, 48-49

Did this change Jesus' relationship with His parents?

Luke 2:51-52

Jesus' Ministry Begins (*Luke 3*)

How did Luke begin his story of Jesus' ministry?

Luke 3:3-4, 16

What did Luke show to be the event that marked the beginning of Jesus' ministry?

Luke 3:21-23a

What other detail did Luke include to point out that Jesus was human and came for all people?

Luke 3:23b, 38

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Jesus Dives In (*Luke 4:1-15*)

How did Jesus immediately show His commitment to His calling that was confirmed at His baptism?

Luke 4:1-2, 13

John tells us the most stories of Jesus' early days in Galilee. How did Luke summarize them?

Luke 4:14

Besides the miracles that John mentions, what attracted people to Jesus when He came to their towns?

Luke 4:15

Synagogue (Greek for *called together place*) - The local house of worship and teaching

Rabbis (not priests) taught the people, much more informal than temple

Began during exile in Babylon, synagogues built anywhere there were at least 10 families

Did the idea of coming together weekly for worship and teaching start with the synagogue in Babylon?

Leviticus 23:3

Since Jesus fulfilled the ceremonial law and we are not bound by it, why do we bother meeting weekly?

Hebrews 10:25

Synagogue Sabbath Service (*Luke 4:16*)

What is one of the towns where we see Jesus going to the synagogue?

Luke 4:16

Synagogue Sabbath service had 3 parts: worship, reading and teaching

Worship - Began with words of thanksgiving and reciting of the Jewish creed, the *Shema*:

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (4-9)

After the *Shema*, an adult male was invited to say the *Tefillah*, a prayer of petitions

Each petition was ended with a response like *Blessed are You, O Lord*

Reading - A prescribed section from the Pentateuch (Law) was followed by a Prophet reading

Any congregation member could read; Levites and priests were given precedence

Pentateuch was divided into sections so it would be read completely over one year

Chazzan (synagogue care-taker) selected prophet book, reader selected passage

Scripture verses were read in Hebrew, then freely translated in Aramaic

Teaching - Synagogue ruler would invite any competent worshipper to bring the sermon

Many quoted heavily from writings of the rabbis

Visiting rabbis were especially welcomed for this task

Resulted in effective spread of the gospel for Jesus, Paul & others

Readings were made standing up out of respect for God's Word

The sermon was given while seated

Worship concluded with a blessing by a priest, or a prayer by a worshipper

Jesus Reads (*Luke 4:17-21*)

Which reading was Jesus invited to give as the hometown boy made good?

Luke 4:17

What text did He read that foretold the work of the Messiah (*The Anointed One*)?

Isaiah 61:1-2

Who do we then see was welcomed to give the sermon?

Luke 4:20

How did He begin His sermon?

Luke 4:21

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Activities of the Messiah (Luke 4:18-19)

Was Jesus exaggerating by saying that God's Spirit was on Him and that He was anointed?

Luke 3:21-22

What five things did Isaiah say the Messiah would do?

Luke 4:18-19

Activities of Jesus (Luke 4:18-19)

Did Jesus *preach good news to the poor*?

Luke 6:20 (Matthew 5:1-12)

How important did Jesus feel it was for Him to preach God's good news?

Luke 4:42-43

Who did Paul tell us are the *prisoners* for whom Jesus was *sent to proclaim freedom*?

Galatians 3:22-25; 5:1

How did Jesus tell us we can be set free?

John 8:31-32

Will all prisoners of sin be freed?

John 3:18

What is one example of Jesus giving *recovery of sight for the blind*?

John 9:1, 6-7

What blindness in this same story was Jesus most concerned about?

John 9:39-41

What did Jesus' healing ministry show besides God's compassion on His people of faith?

Luke 7:20-22

How did Jesus *release the oppressed*?

Matthew 5:10-12

How will the oppressed and persecuted be vindicated?

2 Thessalonians 1:4-9

Are we to thank God for this vindication and the punishment our enemies will get?

Matthew 5:44

How did Jesus come *to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor*?

Matthew 4:17

When did this year of the Lord's favor begin?

Galatians 4:4-5

What was understood by the term "the year of the Lord's favor"?

Leviticus 25:10 (8-55)

How did Jesus bring the freedom of the Year of Jubilee?

Romans 8:1-2

Show Us a Miracle! (Luke 4:22-23)

Did the people understand what Jesus said in His sermon?

Luke 4:22

Did Jesus recognize that the people were watching a show and not hearing His message?

Luke 4:23

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Where's the Faith? (*Luke 4:24*)

What did Jesus think about those who just came to see Him do a miracle?

Matthew 12:38-39

What was this sign of Jonah that He agreed to show them?

Matthew 12:40

What was needed before Jesus would do a miracle?

Matthew 9:22

What resulted from low expectations by acquaintances during His only other visit to Nazareth?

Matthew 13:58 (54-58)

Did Jesus feel His problem was unique?

Luke 4:24

Old Testament Proof (*Luke 4:25-27*)

What example could Jesus have used to show that *no prophet is accepted in His hometown*?

Jeremiah 1:1; 11:21-22

What examples did He give instead?

Luke 4:25-27

What was He saying by highlighting these examples?

Acts 28:25-28

How do we see this in Paul's work?

Acts 18:4-6

They Understood (*Luke 4:28-30*)

Did the people understand any of Jesus' sermon?

Luke 4:28

How upset were they?

Luke 4:29

How far did they get?

Luke 4:30

Why were they unable to kill Him?

John 2:4b

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. When have the riches of God's kingdom helped me when I have felt poor in any way?
(*Matthew 5:1-12; 6:19-21; 25:34; Luke 6:20-26; 2 Cor. 6:10; Colossian 2:2; 1 Timothy 6:17-19*)
2. How have I felt the freedom that Jesus has given to me?
(*Psalms 142:7; 146:7; John 8:31-36; Romans 6:15-23; 7:21-25; Galatians 3:22-25; 5:1; 1 Peter 2:16*)
3. When in my life have I been spiritually blinded and when has God especially helped me see?
(*Matthew 13:10-17; John 1:4-9; 3:19-21; 9; Acts 26:13-18; Hebrews 11:13-16; 1 Peter 2:9*)
4. Have I ever felt oppressed or condemned for my faith?
(*Matthew 5:10-12; 10:16-23, 28-33; John 15:18-25; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-10; 2 Timothy 3:10-12*)
5. How do I respond to the knowledge that the year of the Lord's favor is near?
(*Matthew 4:17; 24:1-25:30; Mark 13:32-37; Luke 12:35-48; 17:20-35; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*)