

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

Jesus' 1st Rejection in Nazareth

Last time...the healing of the nobleman's son and the start of Jesus' Galilean ministry

This time...Jesus' return to Nazareth, His hometown, and His reception by the hometown folks
We are in the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 4

v16-17 Nazareth...synagogue...to read:

After healing the nobleman's son...

far more Personally and powerfully than any "celebrated Rabbi"...
merely by speaking and from a great distance...

Jesus walked the approx 4 miles from Cana to His hometown of Nazareth

It has been not quite a year since He was here...

He left to be anointed/baptized by John the Baptist

He has done much in that time, in Jerusalem, Cana, and Capernaum

- many miracles
- water into wine
- heal the nobleman's son

His fame has spread in Galilee (v14-15), certainly to His hometown

On the Sabbath day after He returned "home", Jesus, as we would expect and as
He always did, went to the synagogue to worship
He would be surrounded by familiar faces, people who (thought they) knew Him

This was the first recorded teaching of Jesus' in a synagogue...
and it is His "home synagogue"

Background

- Synagogues
 - When the “servant of God”, Neb, came and destroyed the defiled Temple (Solomon’s) in Jerusalem and took the people of Judah captive, houses of worship called synagogues came into existence
 - There is no mention of them in the OT
 - Required at least 10 men to “open its doors”
- Order of authority
 1. Chief ruler
 2. Rulers/elders
 3. Minister (schoolmaster)
- Order of worship
 1. Blessing: Num 6:24-26, by a priest if in attendance or by a ruler
 2. Reading of the Law: Minister gave the scroll to 7 readers chosen by the Chief ruler to read 7 portions – stand
 3. Reading of the Prophets: Minister gave scroll to 1 reader chosen by the Chief ruler to read 1 portion – stand
 4. Devotional teaching/Sermon: by the person chosen to read from the Prophets – sit
 - to be carefully prepared
 - to attract hearers
 - to conclude with the great Messianic hope of Israel
 - no interruptions or questions until the sermon had ended

On this Sabbath, the Chief ruler of the synagogue in Nazareth asks the carpenter’s son to read from the Prophets and to give the sermon
After all, Jesus’ reputation had preceded Him!

When it was His turn in the order of worship to read, Jesus

- stood up
- walked to and ascended the “bima” (platform)
- stood at the lectern
- was handed the scroll of Isaiah by the Minister
 - treasured copy of the original, written 750 years prior
 - laced with Messianic prophesies
 - void of chapter and verse divisions
- opened the scroll
- found His selected text

Questions:

- Did Jesus have to hunt for His text or did He go right to it?
He knew exactly where it was
- Did Jesus have to read it or could He have spoken it “from memory”?
Did He paraphrase it?
He knew it but still read it, did not paraphrase it
- Why did Jesus read it?
To teach us the importance/authority of the inspired, inerrant,
infallible written Word

What did Jesus read?

v18-19 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me:

The text Jesus selected is what we know as Is 61:1-2a
(after chapter and verse divisions)

The text and therefore the entire sermon, not just its concluding remarks,
would be about the great Messianic hope of Israel

The Messiah, upon Whom is the Holy Spirit (Is 42:1, Luke 3:21-22), would

- preach to His people
 - Good News
 - freedom/forgiveness (“deliverance” and “liberty”)
 - now (2 Cor 6:2)
- heal His people
- set free His people

These words of God give hope to the

- poor
- brokenhearted
- captives
- blind
- bruised/crushed
- nation

by God’s Servant, their Messiah (awaited by fallen man for about 4000 years)

But what kind of Messiah were they looking for vs what kind would God send?

King to break the yoke of Rome (theirs)

vs

Servant to suffer in order to break the yoke of sin and death (God’s)

Jesus stopped before He read “and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all that mourn”...not lost on His hearers
(reference to the kingdom of God established on earth)

In the light of the Word of God, to whom does this passage give hope?

- poor: in spirit
Matt 5:3
- brokenhearted: mourn their sin
Matt 5:4
- captives: of the devil and death
2 Tim 2:24-26
Heb 2:14-16
John 8:31-32
- blind: spiritual, by sin
Is 42:16-20
Matt 15:1-14
Matt 23
- bruised/crushed: spiritual, by sin
Is 53:5
- nation:
Is 43:1
Rom 9:4-5

Jesus Christ was sent to heal spiritually...man's greatest problem/need
He healed physically as evidence of His Messiahship

v20 This day...fulfilled:

After reading this brief text, Jesus

- closed the scroll
- returned the scroll to the Minister
- stepped away from the lectern and off the platform ("bima")
- returned to His seat
- sat down

The worshippers in the synagogue

- knew the Sermon was next in the order of worship
- knew what Jesus had done since He was last here
- were sitting "on the edge of their seats" in great expectation

Jesus now begins His sermon

v21-22 This day...fulfilled:

Whereas His townsfolk, from their human perspective, clung to the
Messianic hope given to the

- poor
- brokenhearted
- captives
- blind
- bruised/crushed

what did Jesus, from His Divine perspective, emphasize as He read the passage?

“Me”

1. the Spirit of the Lord is upon...Me
2. He (The Lord God) has appointed...Me
3. He (The Lord God) has sent...Me

What is Jesus’ message in His (unrecorded) sermon?

“I AM the Messiah, the Servant of the Lord.”

His sermon was about Him and His Divine mission...

NOT about the Jews, as they would think/hear

“Servant of the Lord” must be kept in context

- Messiah
- Israel

We can discern the format of Jesus’ sermon

1. Text
2. Exposition
3. Application
4. Result/Response

Jesus’ sermon blew their minds...He spoke simple yet profound and powerful
truth about that passage of Scripture

Jesus spoke like no man ever spoke!

Jesus taught like one having authority, unlike the scribes.

John 5:39, Heb 10:7

The folks in the synagogue had a clear reaction to Jesus’ sermon – unbelief

“Is 61:1-2a, speaking of the Servant of God, our Messiah, was written
750 years ago...about the son of our town carpenter?!”

Very carnal, unspiritual words

v23 Ye will surely say unto me:

Hearing their question,
Hearing the tone of voice,
Knowing their hearts (John 4:43-44),
Jesus gives evidence of His nature by telling them in advance what they are going
to say to Him (in protest)...what they may be thinking

“Physician, heal thyself...in thy country.”
(Prove your Messianic claims.)

Healer (of the nobleman’s son in Capernaum),
heal your own, your hometown folks.
We have heard what you did in Capernaum, we want to see you do it here
in Nazareth.

In the hearts of the familiar faces looking at Jesus is

- jealousy (of Capernaum)
- mocking (the carpenter’s son)
- unbelief – must see to believe (seeking a sign)

v24-27 I say...I tell:

Jesus of Nazareth confronts the unbelief in Nazareth...
He is not silenced or intimidated
Rather than ignoring it, He goes right to the heart of the matter

Note: This is the 1st time He is rejected in Nazareth, when He is alone
He will a 2nd time in Matt 18 and Mark 6 when His disciples are
with Him

“I say to you: No prophet is accepted in his hometown/family
I tell you of a truth:

- The only widow to whom Elijah was sent during the 3½ years I turned
off the water was a GENTILE woman from that wicked woman
Jezebel’s hometown, who had the faith in the God of Israel to
share her last meal with My servant Elijah
- The only leper healed during the ministry of Elisha was a GENTILE
man (commander of the enemy army) who had the faith to
come to, ask for healing of, and obey Elisha
- The GENTILES were healed because of the unbelief in Israel

So how did this go over?

v28-29 filled with wrath:

The “worshippers” in Nazareth, having had their minds blown,
now lose their minds

With fierce indignation, they (now more a mob than anything else) marched Jesus
out of town to the cliff on the western edge of town, with the intention of
killing Him by pushing Him off the cliff to the rocks 40 feet below

[describe cliff from vantage point of Mount Carmel]

What a marked contrast to the words of Jesus between the Samaritans and
the Jews!

How is this for a reward for living a quiet, lawful life for 30 years among these
people!

John 1:11, at the micro-level

The 1st time Jesus Christ taught in the Temple, the Jews

- questioned His authority
- demanded a sign
- wanted Him out

The 1st (recorded) time He taught in the synagogue, the Jews

- questioned His authority
- demanded a sign
- cast Him out

People do not get mad at us when we say “God” because

- “God” is so vague and non-offensive to most
- there are many gods
- every religion has a god

But people usually lose their minds when we say “Jesus Christ” because His name
is so specific and exclusive...His cross so offensive

So, if Matt 10:32-33 be true, when witness say “Jesus Christ” vs “God”
And know Matt 10:34 and Matt 28:18-20

And the people who know us best are usually the most offended and
resistant – our families

Back to the cliff of Nazareth...what happens?

v30-31 passing through...went his way:

Nothing.

This was not the Father's appointed time for His Son/Servant to die

This was not the Father's appointed way He would die

This was not the Father's appointed place He would die

So the Sovereign and Living Maker of heaven and earth "parted the people" and

Jesus continues His ministry in Galilee elsewhere

He is not welcomed in His hometown so He goes to Capernaum

Jesus does not stay where He is not welcomed

Looking back at the text Jesus selected for His 1st sermon (v18-19),

- there is no Good News until the spiritual bankruptcy/poverty is acknowledged
- there is no healing until there is brokenness
- there is no deliverance (freedom, forgiveness) until POW status is recognized
- there is no relief from the blindness of sin until there is belief in the Lord Jesus Christ
- there is no freedom without being crushed ("I am a sinner! I am undone!")
- all the Bad News is about us spiritually and our sin
- all the Good News is about Jesus Christ and Him crucified

So, if you are

- poor
- brokenhearted
- captives
- blind
- bruised/crushed

Good News!

Jesus Christ

- Son of God
- Son of Man
- Servant of God
- Messiah/Savior

has come for you!

What is your response?

- Like the Samaritans – received, believed?
- Like the Jews of Nazareth – rejected, did not believe?

Do you want more of Jesus or do you want to throw Him off a cliff?

(these are the only two choices)