



## Small Group Bible Study—St. Paul's: Onalaska

WK 2: Regardless of our Reaction

Based on sermon from Feb 3rd, 2019

Luke 4:20-30

### WARM UP

1. What do you like best about the town where you grew up? Is it strange going back there?

**Commented [OD1]:** This is meant to be a safe question. It'll help people know a little bit more about the people there so they get to know each other. This question should lead into the story by asking, "It what way do you think it was strange for Jesus to go back to Nazareth, his home town?"

### INTO THE TEXT

2. What was Jesus point in talking about the two Old Testament lessons? (the widow of Zaraphath - 1 Kings 17 - and Naaman the Syrian – 2 Kings 5)

**Commented [OD2]:** The point of vs. 23 was that the people were wanting to see what their hometown hero was capable of. They had no doubt heard of the miracles. But Jesus wasn't doing what he was doing to put Nazareth on the map. He had a greater mission that extended outside of Nazareth and outside of even the Jews. The Jews understood the implications of what Jesus was saying: the Messiah was sent not just for the Jews but for all people. It's a reminder that God doesn't show favoritism, but came to seek and save the lost.

3. The people tried to kill Jesus. There could have been many different reactions to people trying to kill him. Why did he simply walk away?

**Commented [OD3]:** This is a testimony to his compassion, patience and love. He could have destroyed them all, instead he went to the cross where he would be destroyed in their place. It also is a reminder to the fact that he had everything completely under control, even his death. He decided when he was going to die, the time and the place. This was not his time yet.

4. Pastor Bader brought up how people "closest" to Jesus are among the first to reject him. How do we explain those who seem to have grown up with every spiritual advantage (Christian home, Christian education, etc), but yet have fallen away? How did that happen?

**Commented [OD4]:** This topic hits close to home for a lot of people. While we do not have the ability to accept Christ, we do have the ability to reject. Most former Christians don't outright say "I reject Jesus" but slowly over time decision after decision that's exactly what happens. Somewhere along the line they can lose their faith completely. If our heart is constantly trying to throw Christ off a cliff, then we need to hear the gospel and receive his sacrament all the more frequently.

## DIGGING DEEPER

5. The people who loved Jesus, suddenly changed their mind about him and wanted to throw him off a cliff. Look at the verses and think of some different ways that our sinful nature wants to throw Jesus off of the cliff of our hearts. Consider the emotions that are taking place in each case when you are faced with whether or not to obey Jesus.

- Gen 4:6-7

- Acts 5:1-2

- Romans 7:18-20

6. See Micah 7:18-19. Even though they tried to throw him off a cliff, he walked away from them. He continued his journey to the cross. How do these words from Micah cause us to see Jesus doing the same thing in our lives?

## NOW WHAT?

7. Jesus said, "no prophet is accepted in his home town." There are a lot of emotions connected with bringing up the topic of religion both for the one speaking and the one listening. What close family member or friend do you need to talk to? Why has it been so difficult to do so? What do you think would be a good way of approaching them, if at all?

**Commented [OD5]:** Cain and Abel – I added this verse because it's right at the moment when Cain is deciding whether or not he is going to kill his brother. Imagine the emotions taking place. There is anger vs. love – for his brother and his Lord. There is jealousy, envy, and hatred that finally overcame everything else.

**Commented [OD6]:** Ananias and Sapphira – They held back part of the money that they were donating, but they told the church they gave it all to them. They were lying about money to make them look better. There was greed vs. trusting in the Lord, there was a desire to look generous in front of the church.

**Commented [OD7]:** This is a general struggle that all of us go through. It's a good reminder that these emotions that wage war of our sinful nature vs the New Man continue in our lives daily.

**Commented [OD8]:** This is an awesome verse of comfort that is meant to show people that Jesus metaphorically walked away from us in spite of our sins and headed toward the cross. It shows that while we fail so often when sin vs. Jesus face off, Christ tramples on our sins for us when he fights the battle.

**Commented [OD9]:** Answers will vary. But make sure you don't guilt someone into saying something. Help people see the urgency. But also realize that there is a point where a person has to shake the dust off his feet for his own family members and not bring up their spiritual life anymore. But that can only come after saying something.