

Gospel of Luke

House Group Notes for Luke 4:14-30 based upon sermon series



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“THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON YOU AND THE POWER OF THE MOST HIGH WILL OVERSHADOW YOU” LUKE 1: 35

What do you think Jesus is saying in Luke 4:18-19 and how was it understood by those listening to him?

First century Israelites knew they were poor as a nation and as individuals, and that they were prisoners, slaves, and oppressed. Like any occupied nation they passionately desired their freedom and drew their hope from their scriptures - particularly Isaiah's prophecies and the Exodus stories of their forefathers.

In what way were the Israelites “blind” and

how did Jesus help them recover their “sight”?

Throughout the Gospels the most of Israel struggles to see who Jesus really is and perceive his real mission.

Can you think of other stories that show this?

What was Naaman willing to do that the people of Israel were not in Elisha's time and what point is Jesus trying to make here?

In 2 Kings 5:1-14 we find the story of Naaman and Elisha. Naaman was an important and proud Gentile who had to humble himself

to receive from God. How was Naaman humbled – how willing are we to be humbled? Is obedience important?

What was asked of the Widow of Zarephath that was not forthcoming from Ahab and the Israelites?

Compare and contrast what we know about the Israelite King Ahab in 1 Kings 16:30-31 and the widow in 1 Kings 17:7-16. The Gentiles, to whom Israel is supposed to be “a light,” respond more appropriately to God than do the Israelites!

Why did those listening to Jesus suddenly get angry with him? Do we ever reject God's word because we don't like what he's saying?

DISCUSS FURTHER

1. “The servant-Messiah had not come to inflict punishment on the nations, but to bring God's love and mercy to them.”¹ Why was this such a shocking idea and received so negatively?
2. The Jubilee “year of the Lord's favour” (see Lev.25) is a powerful image of release from captivity and burden. In what way are we captives today and how do we find release in our faith?

LUKE 4:14-30

Baptised in the Holy Spirit and overcome in the wilderness, Jesus now steps into his public ministry in his hometown of Nazareth.

¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind,

to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

*The Year of the Lord’s Favour
Isaiah 61:1,2 - ¹The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He*

*has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,
²to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favour and the day of vengeance of our God...*

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked. ²³ Jesus said to them,

“Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’” ²⁴ “Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶ Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of

Sidon. ²⁷ And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.”

²⁸ All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

*The Servant of the Lord
Isaiah 49:6 - ⁶I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.*

Isaiah 42: 1,6,7 - ¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations...⁶and a light for the Gentiles, ⁷to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison...”

