

Luke
See Jesus
Jesus is Good News
Luke 4:14-30

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / January 31, 2021

I. Jesus Knew Who He Was

Luke 4:17-20 “And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to Him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’ ²⁰And He rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him.”

Luke 4:21 “...Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Jesus is saying “I’m here. I’ve come. I *am* this sermon.”

They didn’t believe Jesus could be anything other than a wonderful teacher and man...and the same thing is still happening today. People love some of the things Jesus said and did—until He starts claiming to be God!

Jesus doesn’t give us the option of reducing Him down to a good man, social justice warrior, wise sage, or a cultural icon that you can add to your collection of other earthly heroes. He claimed to be God!

“...the secular response to [Christ] always goes like this: He was a great prophet, obviously a very interesting guy, had a lot of great things to say along the lines of other great prophets, be they Elijah, Muhammad, Buddha or Confucius. But actually, Christ doesn’t allow you to do that...Christ says, ‘No, I’m not saying I’m a teacher, don’t call me a teacher. I’m not saying I’m a prophet. I’m the Messiah. I am God incarnate. I know you’re expecting me to come back with an army, and set you free from these [Roman] creeps, but actually I am the Messiah.’ So, what you’re left with is either Christ was who He said He was – the Messiah – or a complete nutcase...on the level of Charles Manson. The idea that the entire course of civilization for over half of the globe could have its fate changed and turned upside-down by a nutcase, for me *that’s* far-fetched...”

~ Bono of U2, quoted in *Bono: In Conversation with Michka Assayas*

II. Jesus Knew How We Think

Luke 4:22 “And all spoke well of Him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from His mouth...”

They’re not offended, upset, or shocked yet because they thought the Messiah was going to fix their immediate problems and solve the government oppression they were living under. Jesus leaves that alone while He focuses on their biggest problem—their sin problem that separates them from a holy God!

Jesus takes His message to the next level because He realizes they've done what we so often still do – they sifted His message through a grid of their own understanding so that it fits with what they already think about themselves and want to do.

Luke 4:25-27 “But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, ²⁶and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. ²⁷And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.”

None of the people who already think they're pretty good—and better than others—will ever be saved, but only spiritual outcasts who know they have no hope of their own.

Luke 4:26 “...and Elijah was sent to NONE of them BUT ONLY to Zarephath...to a woman who was a widow.”

Luke 4:27 “And there were many lepers in Israel...and NONE of them was cleansed, BUT ONLY Naaman the Syrian.”

He's essentially saying to them “there's no hope for you people sitting in front of Me until you see yourself like this Gentile widow who had nothing or this Gentile leper who was an outcast!”

He shattered their grid that was causing them to think, “He's on the same page as us and He's here to do what we want.” Once that grid was shattered, they wanted to kill Him.

When the human heart truly understands the message of the Gospel, it is offensive because it puts us in a position of abject poverty and absolute need, able to do nothing for ourselves.

People are so drawn to religion instead of the Gospel because religion keeps you in the driver's seat as a respectable human being who just needs a little help.

III. Jesus Knew Why He Came and that He's Coming Again!

Jesus' mission and ministry is a two-part drama. He comes into our world the first time as a Savior who offers the free gift of eternal life, but He's coming back as a King who will judge everyone who rejects this free offer.

Isaiah 61:2 “To proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God...”

Revelation 19:11-16 “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”