

Everyday Life Bible Study Podcast
07-In the Synagogue at Nazareth - Show Notes

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Being in his hometown, Jesus was familiar with the Nazareth synagogue. The people were also familiar with Jesus. He was somewhat of a celebrity there after performing all the miracles in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival and capturing the attention of the Jewish leaders. They were there and saw what he did and they all “spoke well of him.”

It was common for visiting or different rabbis to speak in the synagogue. After growing up there, Jesus was now invited to speak. He read from the prophet Isaiah.

Luke 4:16-20

What was customary was a reading, then the delivery a sermon. “Their eyes were fixed on him” because he was supposed to expound and teach on the passage. They were waiting for him to say something. But maybe there was another reason they were looking at him so intently. He left a part out!

Here's the same passage from Isaiah...Isaiah 61:1-2

He left out that last part! Why? John 3:17

He read only the redemptive part and said, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." He left out the judgment part because that's not what he was here to do. That part is still yet to come! This is a pivotal moment in history. No longer are we under the Age of the Law. Jesus is ushering in the Age of Grace.

The year of the Lord's favor refers to the Jewish Year of Jubilee. Every 50 years when prisoners and slaves were set free. Property returned back to the original owners. If you bought land, you paid according to how many years were left until the Jubilee. Because in that year it went back to the people you bought it from.

Jesus is ushering in a new season when he makes all things new. When prisoners and the oppressed are set free. When the spiritually blind can see. He fulfills the Old Testament Jubilee tradition once and for all. “Today this scripture is fulfilled.”

Of course they were fixated on him. He was claiming to be way more than just a rabbi. I'm sure you could have heard a pin drop. Have you been in those meetings where someone makes a big statement? Maybe a resignation or a confession? That's surely what it was like in the synagogue that day.

Luke 4:23-27

He read about setting people free, now he's including gentile nations in that group. This infuriated them to the point of killing him.

Luke 4:28-30 - A miraculous escape

Luke 4:42-43 - The "good news" is this...verses 18-19. Do you fit into any of those categories? Poor, oppressed, in bondage to something? Jesus has provided for your freedom!

The one fighting for you has already provided for your freedom! And he proclaims over you, the year of the Lord's favor! He proclaims GRACE over you! Not judgment or condemnation, but freedom! Jesus didn't come to condemn you but to save you.

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free! (Rom 8:1-2) You're no longer bound the the law of sin and death. He has proclaimed GRACE over you.

Does that mean we're not messed up from time to time? Of course not! You and I both do dumb things and get messed up. But like the woman caught in adultery. Jesus stood up for her and her accusers went away. He did with her what he came to do for us all.