

Luke 4:16-30. (Israel?)

Invite your one – this morning you should have received an Invite Your One bookmark.....we have been asking you for the last couple of weeks to be thinking of someone you can invite to church.....

We are asking that you take this bookmark and put it somewhere special.....somewhere you will remember it through the week.....and every time you see it, will you pray for God to lay someone on your heart to invite to church

Next week, we want to have a time in our service where we write on our card....the name of the person we are going to commit to invite to cornerstone....

Keep up with this book mark, pray for that person, and next week we will take some time out of our service to commit to inviting that person to church.....

Lets jump in to our text this morning.....just as a reminder, our sermon series that we are currently in is called from the cradle to the cross.....we are examining the investigations of Luke as it concerns the life of Christ.....

This morning, we jump into the beginning of Jesus' teaching ministry –

Lets look at **Luke 4:16-30**

v.16 – he came from Nazareth where he had been brought up.....important.....lets set the scene here.....

Jesus' name was becoming famous.....in many ways.....a rock star.....he was traveling from town to town.....he was the young, hip, cool, fiery evangelist, and the crowds were beginning to follow him....

He was teaching in all of the little synagogues when he came into these towns.....and these little synagogues would fill and the more he taught, the more followed.....

and he comes back to his hometown.....where every single person would have known who he was.....

and he goes to the synagogue, where all of the religious people would have known him.....they would have seen him come with Mary and Joseph.....

they would have seen him start to walk, and grow, go through puberty, and now man

and he stands up to read – so he is instantly recognized as an authority

v.17 – and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah is given to him.... – (he was given Isaiah).....and he goes to a very specific passage in Isaiah....we would know it as Isaiah 61

and he reads (**v.18 – 21**) (GO SIT DOWN). and then he sits down.....TENSION

strange right.....this would have been how the room felt with Jesus.....and in the midst of the silence he says.....all the eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him

v.21. “today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing”

and it says they marveled – were astonished – v.31 – they were astonished b/c his teaching had authority, prior....the rabbi's simply recited other teachers opinions

but Jesus taught straight from God's word

now, we need to do a little investigative work to get the magnitude of what Jesus just did here....

And to do that, we have to be thankful for our grammar teachers growing up, because.....our grammar teachers help us more than they know.....

Our grammar teachers taught us how important periods and commas were.....

Lets eat, grandpaw.

Lets eat grandpaw.

When Jesus quotes Isaiah 61, he does something peculiar.....in **Isaiah 61:2**, there is a comma after "to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor".....and it finishes with 'and the day of vengeance of our God: to comfort all who mourn'

Now.....the reason he did that is because what comes after the comma in Isaiah 61 is actually the 2nd coming of Christ....(they would have wanted to hear vengeance.....messiah prophecy)....

Jesus then declares....."today, this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" – they would have known this was a messianic passage.....and they knew right then.....he was declaring himself messiah

What we also know is that Jesus was telling us what his earthly ministry was going to look like.....good news to the poor, liberty to the captives, give sight to the blind, liberty to the oppressed.

Lets just say....if YOU and I were looking to start your ministry off on the best of foot.....this wouldn't be the way to do that....

But Jesus is different.....he knows exactly what's going to happen.....he knows this would enrage the listener.....

So to drive the point home even further Jesus reminds them.....that all of the prophets of old were never concerned with the rich, the religious, the famous.....(the religious leaders in the synagogue)

He gives 2 examples.....Elijah – and the widow of Zarephath.....he says....Elijah could have went to the widows in Israel....instead he was sent to Zarephath

He found a woman who was preparing to die, picking up sticks, to make one last loaf.....and then her and her son would die....

Elijah asks for bread.....and what happened next is one of those miracles in the Bible.....the oil and the flour never stopped producing.....Jesus is our eternal bread....

He also reminds them of Elisha and Naaman.....there were plenty of lepers in Israel.....but God sent Elisha to the Syrian known as Naaman...and he healed him.....

Both of these (the widow and Naaman) were gentiles.....

And look what happens next.....**v.28** – when they heard these things....they were filled with wrath, drove him out of town, brought him to the brow of the hill....

What we need to know in this.....is that Jesus perfectly fulfilled this passage.....he proclaimed good news to us who were poor, we were blind, we were captive and oppressed.....

We are the ones who were broken....listen, if your life is messed up...if you think ive messed up so bad....the good news is that Jesus was the one anointed to proclaim good news to the poor...we were spiritually poor, if you think you are financially poor.....its nothing compared to being spiritually poor.....

Jesus is the one who was sent to proclaim liberty to the captives and oppressed.....if you are held captive by your sin, if you find yourself depressed, anxious, worried.....

Jesus is the one who was sent to bring us liberty, freedom