**LUKE: Investigating the Real Jesus**

**Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee, Luke 4:14-44**

Weekend of 1/20-21/24

**WE Slide 1 TURN TO LUKE 4, pg 1024. One of the great things about studying the Bible is that you’re always learning and once again it happened to me this week.** Last week I said that Jesus moved north during His 40-day fast/temptation by Satan in 4:1-13 so that in v. 14 He had made His way to Galilee. **Well, I was wrong! Slide 2** We pastors got to talking about this in staff meeting and the timing in the Gospels was strange so I dug into it further and here’s what I found out.

1. Time gap of over a year between 4:13 & 4:14- called the “Year of Obscurity”/Early Judean ministry.
2. The Gospel of John is the only Gospel to tell us what happened during that time- John 1:19-4:44.
3. Jesus meets several of His disciples in John 1:19-4:44, but some don’t follow Him full time until Luke 5.

**Though we’d like the Gospels to give us everything that took place with Jesus we’re only given what we need to know in order to respond as God desires.** **Slide 3** For today what we know is that Jesus returns to Galilee in Luke 4:14 with His reputation going ahead of Him. **People are amazed not just with His miracles, but also with His teaching- it’s powerful, authoritative, like nothing people have ever heard from their religious teachers.** The Pharisees/rabbis taught more about their traditions/what previous Pharisees/rabbis said about their traditions. **So when they heard God’s Word taught it was powerful and impactful.** I’ve heard this a lot from people who’ve attended mainline denominational churches- focused on church calendar events, the traditons of their particular denomination, or discussed the thoughts of pastors, priests, popes, philosophers. **Then they hear the Bible actually taught and it’s so meaningful/powerful, so impactful. That’s because it’s God’s Word and God’s working through it.**

**As Jesus makes His way around Galilee He ends up in His hometown of Nazareth, a small town around 400 people in the hills of Galilee.** The famous son has come home! **Everybody knew Jesus- these are His family, childhood friends, neighbors, they can’t wait to see all the miracles He’ll do for them.** Let’s see what happens **READ Luke 4:16-30 Slide 4-17 Wow! No hero’s welcome/street named after Him/fans crowding the streets, just a mob wanting to throw Him off a cliff! What is going on here?!** Let’s see...

1. **JESUS GOES HOME TO NAZARETH**
2. **Jesus Reads A 700-year-old Prophecy about the Messiah-** the world’s Savior/King.
3. Preach the gospel/good news of salvation to the poor.
4. Proclaim release to the captives.
5. Proclaim recovery of sight for the blind.
6. Set free those who are oppressed.
7. Proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.

**Slide 18**

1. **Jesus Announced that the Prophecy Had Been Fulfilled-** He Was the Messiah!
2. He would do the things listed in the prophecy.
3. One of their own would return Israel to power and relevance.

**Slide 19**

1. **The People Were Impressed with His Teaching Ability**
2. One problem…this guy was Joseph’s son/one of them.
3. **Who is He to think that He is the Messiah?**
4. Matthew/Mark- the people were offended by Jesus’ saying He was the Messiah.
5. Matthew/Mark the people listed His brothers/sisters, mention Mary but don’t even use Joseph’s name, he’s just the “carpenter”.
6. Their point- He’s the son of Mary and the carpenter who was conceived before they were married.
7. Mark- Jesus was incredibly disturbed by their unbelief and could only heal a few people who were sick.

**Slide 20**

1. **Jesus Tells Them He Won’t Do Any Miracles for Them**
2. Physician heal yourself- figure of speech challenging Jesus to do for them what He’s done for others.
3. Elijah miraculously met the needs of a non-Jewish widow but not the needs of the many Jewish widows. Zarepheth from Sidon, Queen Jezebel’s home town!!
4. Elisha miraculously healed the Gentile Naaman’s leprosy, a military commander of Israel’s enemies but not the many lepers in Israel.
5. He met their needs because they demonstrated faith in God.
6. Jesus knew they had no faith in Him so He would go to those who did and heal them.

**Slide 21**

1. **The People Try to Throw Jesus to His Death.**
2. Jesus’ unwillingness to prove Himself enraged the people.
3. **Not going to do miracles for us?** Then you’re not welcome in this town!
4. They encircled Him and forced Him to the edge of the cliff.
5. But when they got there, He just passed through the crowd.

**Slide 22 READ Luke 4:33-37 Slide 23-28**

1. **JESUS GOES TO CAPERNAUM, Luke 4:31-44**
2. **Jesus Teaches in the Synagogue, 4:31-37**
3. Unlike Jesus’ neighbors the demons knew He was the Holy One of God.
4. They had perfect theology but were still Jesus’ enemies.
5. Perfect, accurate theology doesn’t make a person right with Jesus.

**Slide 29**

1. **Jesus Heals Peter’s Mother-in-Law, 4:38-39**
2. **Jesus Heals the Demon Possessed Man, 4:40-41**

**READ Luke 4:43-44 Slide 30-32**

1. **Jesus Leaves to Continue His Mission, 4:42-44**
2. Jesus’ purpose for coming the 1st time was a spiritual purpose; there would be a physical fulfillment, but that would come after the spiritual was accomplished.
3. The miracles proved He was God but they weren’t the main point.
4. He came to bring God’s kingdom to people’s hearts/lives- make them right with God/to be part of His spiritual kingdom.
5. In God’s kingdom Jesus would reign as king of their lives- He would be the ruler/authority in their lives.

**Slide 33**

**TAKEAWAYS**

* 1. **Hometown neighbors-** You’re angry at Jesus.
1. He’s not doing what you want Him to do/not working fast enough- changing spouse, kids, parents, healing, finances, job, etc.
2. Unbeliever- you need to first be in relationship with Jesus and then He can respond to your requests/needs.
3. Believer- you say you trust His way for eternity, trust His way for your life. Commit to live life His way for His purposes, then your needs will be clarified and you’ll see Jesus meet those needs.

**Slide 34**

* 1. **Demons-** You know the truth, you have good theology, but you’re fighting Him.
1. Knowing about Jesus is not knowing Jesus.
2. Accurate theology does not make one right with God.
3. Unbeliever- allow Jesus into your life, to be in relationship with Him.
4. Believer- take steps of faith to live out the truth you know.

**Slide 35**

* 1. **People of Capernaum-** You want Jesus to stay and work in your life. **Here’s the great news…**
1. Jesus’ mission was accomplished- so He will never leave you.
2. He remains by giving you God the Holy Spirit and the Bible.
3. Unbeliever- turn to Jesus in faith/receive God’s forgiveness and have God the Holy Spirit in your life.
4. Believer- God the Holy Spirit is with you, like Jesus get with God each day in the Bible. **Slide 36**