

From Admiration to Antagonism The Rejection of the Hometown Boy

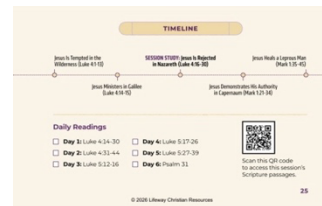
"Imagine Emma, a bright young woman from a small town, admired by all for her talents and success.

- When she returned years later, there was initial excitement, a proud welcome for their 'hometown hero.' But as Emma shared her innovative ideas, challenging the old ways, the admiration quickly soured. 'Who does she think she is?' 'She's forgotten us,' people murmured. The cheers turned to coldness, then antagonism, as the very people who once lauded her now rejected her message and her.
- This unsettling shift, from admiration to animosity in one's own home, is precisely what Jesus experienced in Luke chapter 4. He returned to Nazareth, His hometown, and what began with people marveling at His gracious words soon devolved into furious rejection when He challenged their expectations. Today, we'll examine this powerful account of Jesus' homecoming and what it reveals about accepting or rejecting the truth He brings."

Set the Stage...

New Feature in Personal Study Guide is Timeline

- Jesus begins Ministry - Baptized
- He is Tempted in the Wilderness
- He Ministers in Galilee – John 1:19-4:45 (including what we studied last week: Noblemen's Son
 - **Luke 4:14-15** - Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. ¹⁵ And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. (hold that thought, we'll come back to that in a moment.)
- **Session Study: Jesus is Rejected in Nazareth** –
 - We are looking a Responses to Jesus' early ministry – He is Believed on by Noblemen – Today we will see He is Rejected by Hometown, The Crowd was Amazed, and the Leper Proclaimed
- In every session, you'll see this Timeline – Equip us, by putting each study into its context
- Our Study is Chronological – Not a Deep dive into Book – Walking Chronologically through the Ministry of Jesus to prove indeed that **He is Lord of All**



Luke 4:16 - So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. ¹⁷ And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

Luke 4:20 - ²⁰ Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. ²¹ And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

We will read the rest of the passage in just a moment, but I want you to see ...

The Master's Rhythm

Notice the phrase in Luke 4:16, "**And as His custom was...**

Jesus Gathered to Worship

- This was his Normal, regular rhythm – **It** was his manner of life – his habit to gather for worship
- A typical Synagogue Service would flow like this...
- Open with an **invocation** for God's blessing and then the **recitation** of the traditional Hebrew confession of faith – Shema – Love the Lord with all. (Deut. 6:4–9; 11:13–21).
 - This was followed by **prayer** and the prescribed **readings** from the law and from the prophets, with the reader paraphrasing the Hebrew Scriptures in Aramaic.
 - This was followed by a brief sermon given by one of the men of the congregation or perhaps by a visiting rabbi
 - Close in prayer. (Wiersbe, *Be Compassionate: Luke*, p. 54).

It would not have been uncommon for a traveling rabbi to be asked to speak...

Here Jesus is handed the book of Isaiah –

- He Reads Isaiah 61:1-2 and makes a short but profound declaration
- This passage was understood to refer to the Messiah
- Luke 4:21 – "Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."
- Here is what Jesus is saying – All the prophecies are fulfilled in me!

Proclaiming the Truth of the Gospel

In Luke 4:18–19 announces a **countercultural kingdom – Not what they expected (liberation from Rome)**

This is the Six-Dimensions of the Messiah's Mission:

- **Preach good news to the poor** (*ptōchoi*, the destitute)
- **Heal the brokenhearted** (emotional/spiritual restoration)
- **Proclaim liberty to the captives** (spiritual and literal freedom)
- **Recovery of sight to the blind** (illumination and healing)
- **Set at liberty the oppressed** (systemic liberation)
- **Proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord** (Jubilee restoration)

The Jubilee Year – Every 50 years

- It was a year of great celebration and restoration, designed to remind the Israelites that God was their true owner and provider.
 - **Land Returned to original Family – preserve ancestral inheritance. Slaves Freed. Debts Forgiven**
- The Jubilee Year serves as a powerful picture of what Jesus Christ offers us. Just as the Jubilee brought freedom, restoration, and a new beginning to the Israelites, Jesus brings spiritual freedom from the bondage of sin, restores our relationship with God, and offers a complete fresh start. Through faith in Him, our spiritual debts are forgiven, and we are set free to live a new life (John 8:36; Colossians 2:13-14). It points to the ultimate redemption and restoration found in Christ.

Here is Jesus proclaimed...

- spiritual good news for the poor; emotional healing for the broken; liberating proclamation for prisoners; restoration of sight; freedom from oppression; **cosmic reset** through Jubilee.
- He would set captives free, give sight to the blind, and set free the oppressed, literally and metaphorically, physically and spiritually. His ministry uplifted the downtrodden and gave hope to the hopeless, for those who were suffering.

So we must ask ourselves...What can we learn from what Jesus did that day?

What does Jesus' habit of attending worship teach us?

- Corporate Worship is to be prioritized!
- I love what Warren Wiersbe said about this, "He might have argued that the "religious system" was corrupt, or that He didn't need the instruction, but instead, He made His way on the Sabbath to the place of prayer. (Wiersbe, p. 57)
- The Bible teaches in **Hebrews 10:25** - not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
- We have access to watching online – That is meant to **supplement**, but not a **replacement** of regular gathering of the saints around the teaching and preaching of God's Word
 - Take advantage of the Sermons – Notes, etc

What does Jesus' Proclaiming of the Gospel teach us?

- **Luke 4:18-19** - "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To **preach** the gospel to *the* poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To **proclaim** liberty to *the* captives And recovery of sight to *the* blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ To **proclaim** the acceptable year of the Lord."
- **Matthew 4:23** - And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.
- **When the people sought to keep him from leaving he said...** Luke 4:42 "
- **Luke 4:42-44** ⁴³ but He said to them, "I **must preach** the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent." ⁴⁴ And He was preaching in the synagogues of Galilee.
- **We have been called and commissioned to share the gospel with every person and every place!**

Luke 6:40 - A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.

What is a Disciple: "a Learner, a Devoted Follower who takes on the life of the master

- The term *apprentice* is an accurate picture of the Greek word *mathetes*.
- An apprentice learns or acquires a certain trade, skill set because you want to practice that trade.
- Biblical Definition: A disciple is someone who has turned from sin, trusted in Jesus as Savior and Lord, and is being transformed by Him from the inside out to make other disciples (Matthew 28:16–20).
- We see clearly that Jesus is prioritizing the Gathering to Worship; Proclaiming the Gospel; but there is one more aspect I want you to see...

Luke 4:1 - Then Jesus, being **filled** with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was **led** by the Spirit into the wilderness

Luke 4:14-15 – Then Jesus **returned** in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. ¹⁵ And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

- We see all throughout Jesus' ministry to amount of time he withdrew to spend time with the Father.
- **Luke 5:16** - So He Himself *often* withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

So if Jesus valued Time with the Father, Time with God's People, Those who have yet to call upon His name with Faith and Repentance...how much more should we if we are to be called His Disciples.

Our Values – God's Word, God's People, God's Mission

- Abide in Christ – John 15:4-5
 - **John 15:5** - "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.
- Connects in Biblical Community – Hebrews 10:24-25
 - **Hebrews 10:24-25** - And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
- Shares the Gospel locally and globally – Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8
 - **Matthew 28:18-20** Jesus (said), "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,"
 - **Acts 1:8** - But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."



Our Target – 5G Life

Jesus did not just die on the cross and be raised from the dead so that you and I could escape the eternal punishment of hell – He died and was raised so that we could live for him

1. **Romans 6:4:** "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."
2. **Paul later says in verse ?** (because we have been brought from death to life, present yourselves to God as instruments of righteousness.

Luke 6:40 - A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.

Reset the Stage...Jesus is in the Synagogue – He is given the scroll of Isaiah

- By reading Isaiah 61 (messianic text) and declaring its fulfillment in himself (v. 21),
- **Jesus makes the most explicit messianic claim in Luke's Gospel to this point.**

The Crowd's Response

The Crowd's Initial Response is that of wonder, approval - Amazement

Luke 4:22 - ²² So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. **And they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?"**

- Looking there – That’s Joseph’s boy – he done growd up and made something of himself....How cute is that
- Initially, at least, they were amazed... marveled at his gracious words

The phrase "bore witness" in Scripture generally means

- **to confirm the truth of something or someone, or to affirm a reality.** It's about proclaiming what one has seen, heard, or knows to be true.
- They recognize authentic teaching; their *intellect* acknowledges excellence
- The response is entirely positive—*so far*



Their Amazement Fades Fast – like Fruit Stipes Gum – bursts of flavor, but did not last...

- like **cotton candy** – great taste, but nothing substantial.
- This is what is happening – There is amazement, maybe even a touch of admiration...but that does not last.

The Question That Undoes Everything (v. 22b)

Luke 4:22 - ²² So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. **And they said, "Is this not Joseph’s son?"**

- This is not **genuine** inquiry; it is **skeptical** objection
- The "Joseph's son" reference invokes his **humble, ordinary origins**
 - **In honor-shame Mediterranean culture, a person's status was fixed by birth and family.**
 - You did not **transcend** your **origins**; you embodied them.
 - Jesus was known as the "son of a carpenter (craftsman)"
 - While that trade was **respectable it was viewed as ordinary, not elite**
- This Craftsman’s son **could not be** the promised messiah
 - They were expecting a military leader, ready willing and able to overthrow Roman Rule and
 - re-establish Israel as the perennial world power.
- Messianic claims require extraordinary status or authorization
- His neighbors could not reconcile ordinary origins with messianic authority

Familiarity breeds contempt

- The more closely you know someone or something, the more likely you are to lose respect for them or take them for granted...you can become careless or callous. [1, 2]

Familiarity can be the enemy of faith.

- We dismiss what we think we already know. When Jesus disrupts our categories, we resist.
- Comfort often **breeds** complacency, which can then **result in** compromise.
- When we become too comfortable and complacent in our faith, we can start to compromise on biblical truths or standards, slowly drifting from God's will (Proverbs 14:12; Revelation 3:15-16).
 - That’s why it is important to pray **Psalm 119:18** - Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law.
 - We need the Holy Spirit of God to illuminate Scripture – or as Paul said in Eph. 1:18, "the eyes of your understanding being enlightened"

The Crowd was in the right place, but they were not receptive to what Jesus proclaimed.

- You can sit through service after service, and never experience true salvation. Has there ever come a time in your life when you called upon Jesus' name believing in his death and resurrection and turning away from sin? Invitation at end – Love to have a conversation
- **Our Receptivity to the Word is fueled by our preparation to hear the Word**
 - **Let me ask, how do you prepare to hear the Word – worship songs, praying Psalm 119:18 or Ps. 119:36 incline my heart...**

The Crowd's Response – Antagonism – v. 23 (They became hostile towards Jesus)

Jesus addresses this In Luke 4:23, Jesus responds to The Unspoken Demand

Luke 4:23 - He said to them, "You will surely say this proverb to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in Your country.' " ²⁴ Then He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country.

- **What the crowd is thinking but not saying:**
 - "If you're the Messiah, **prove** it. Perform miracles here—like you did in Capernaum" ... "Justify your claims with signs and wonders"
 - Crowd Implied: We will **believe** if you perform; we will not believe on mere proclamation

Jesus doesn't play their game – He does not do a miracle, instead he throws down the proverbial gauntlet...by saying, You think your special because you are God's chosen...

Luke 4:25 - ²⁵ But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land; ²⁶ but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, *in the region* of Sidon, to a woman *who was* a widow. ²⁷ And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian."

The offensive subtext (implicit but clear):

- You are like the **Israelites of Elijah's and Elisha's days**—you have privilege but lack faith
- The **Gentiles in those narratives** showed more receptivity to God's word than you are showing
- If you reject me, **God's kingdom will simply move to those who believe**
- Your status as Joseph's neighbors, as Israelites in the synagogue, grants you **no inherent advantage**
- **The Gospel is For Every Person and Every Place**

Application: We can become self-**centered** – What can the **church** do for **me**? What can Jesus do for me? WE give to get – We serve for the applause – We no longer have our God time and then ... Well I'm not getting fed.

Antidote for complacency is to remember from where you came – Church at Laodicea

You see the move from Amazement to Antagonism – v. 29

The Crowd's Response – From Amazement – Antagonism to Anger – v. 28

Luke 4:28 - ²⁸ So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, ²⁹ and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. ³⁰ Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way.

The Crowd's Response - Anger – v. 28

- At first, they admired the way He taught, but it didn't take long for their admiration to turn into antagonism. Then to Anger...Why?
- Because Jesus began to remind them of God's goodness to the Gentiles! The prophet Elijah bypassed all the Jewish widows and helped a Gentile widow in Sidon (1 Kings 17:8–16), and his successor Elisha healed a Gentile leper from Syria (2 Kings 5:1–15).
- Our Lord's message of grace was a blow to the proud Jewish exclusivism of the congregation, and they would not repent. Imagine this hometown Boy saying that Jews had to be saved by grace just like the pagan Gentiles! (Wiersbe, *Be Compassionate: Luke*, p. 55)

Conclusion: Hidden in Plain Sight

- They would have known his lineage – Isn't this Joseph's Son - Davidic line
- They would have heard about the miracles – Water to Wine / Healing of Noblemen's Son
- They would have known the prophecies – Branch...Isaiah 11

Isaiah 11:1-2 - There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

The word Branch in Hebrew is Netzer – Where we get the English Term Nazareth

- OT Prophets said the Messah's name would be 'branch' –
- Bible Scholars speculate that by the time of Jesus, this town became known as Shootville or Branchtown
- All this leading in Nazareth to believe that the Messiah would come from their town. (Gallaty, *The Forgotten Jesus*, p. 98)

The place where Jesus grew up, connected to the prophetic "Branch" of Isaiah 11:1—struggled to recognize Him.

- Their familiarity bred a spiritual blindness that caused them to dismiss the Savior standing right before them (Luke 4:22-24).
- They Rejected Jesus – What about you? Are you **Amazed** at Him? Good Teacher, Miracle worker, but has He Transformed you life?

Move from Aware – Amazed by Jesus to be in Awe of him – Call on Him (faith/repent)

Move from Familiarity to Encounter with Living Christ – He died was buried, rose again that you may know and live for Him.

Believer, disciple of Christ – How's Your God Time? Have you fallen into a rut

- Do not allow familiarity with God's Word or with Jesus Himself to blind you to His ongoing work and truth.
- Instead, by the **power of the Spirit of God**, let us cultivate humble hearts, always eager to learn, to be challenged, and to allow Jesus to disrupt any categories that hinder our full surrender and obedience.
- Let us seek Him with open eyes and ears, so we may truly see and follow the Branch, the King, who offers life and righteousness to all who believe.

If you have been spiritually blind to who Jesus truly is, I urge you today to open your heart to Him. He is the promised Messiah, who died for your sins and rose again, offering forgiveness and new life to all who turn from their sin and trust in Him.

Move from Comfort to Calling: Nothing Greater than serving the King of Kings