

The Year of the Lord's Favor

Luke 4:14-30

Luke tells of Jesus' coming "home" to Nazareth after making a big splash as a traveling teacher/miracle worker. The visit doesn't exactly go "well." But it offers great reminders and lessons.

- Jesus ...

- Jesus ...

- Jesus ...

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

1. How would you feel about going back to the church in which you grew up and giving a sermon? What would that experience be like for you?
2. What is it about human nature that wants so desperately to appear "together"—or at least "more together" than the next person?
3. Reading from Isaiah, first Jesus summarized Messiah's ministry—
 - Good news to the poor
 - Freedom for the prisoners
 - Recovery of sight for the blind
 - Setting the oppressed free
 - Proclaiming the year of the Lord's favor—THEN claimed to be the one Isaiah was writing about!

What do you think of Jesus' claim? Have you accepted him as your Savior/King? What are the implications of each of the above phrases and which is/are most meaningful to you?

4. People were speaking well of Jesus after his synagogue message. Why did he refuse to do a miracle? What would that have hurt? And why do you think he reminded them of two incidents that involved God blessing *Gentiles* rather than Jews?
5. "We are all pitiful people" is one woman's way of saying we're sinful, broken, insecure, filled with hurts and hang-ups, needy, prone to do dumb things and get in trouble. Why is it imperative to embrace this idea? What happens to the person who embraces both this ugly truth about self and also the beautiful truth that Jesus is the Messiah?