

Luke 4:15-44 – 5 February 2023

“Who Do You Think Jesus Is?”

Introduction

- *Luke began w/ the *preparation* of the ministry of Jesus Christ showing His baptism and temptation
- *Chap 4 we begin to see the *operation* of His ministry
- *John 1-4 has already happened w/ Jesus going about Judea, Samaria and Galilee
- *Now Jesus goes home to Nazareth where He grew up
- *Today we focus on the identity of Jesus
 - *Was He just a good man or prophet?
 - *Was He a liar or in it for Himself?
 - *We have already seen both God the Father & Satan declare Jesus as the Son of God

Today, we'll see 3 attributes we need to possess to benefit from the identity of Jesus

1st attribute needed to benefit from the identity of Jesus is faith (Vs 15-30)

Read Vs 15-16 – *Nazareth Synagogue*

1. His teaching is already being well-received all over Israel as He travels
2. Notice Jesus never forsook assembling together
3. Travelling or visiting Rabbis were often asked to do the reading & the sermon (as Paul often was)

Read Vs 17-20

1. This would have seemed unusually short to them – not the whole section of Isa 61
2. What does this message say?
 - a. God is leading Me in all I do for I'm the Anointed One which is to say the Christ
 - b. 5-fold effects of sin - & Jesus the cure
 - i. Poor – Sin impoverishes but Christ will teach you the way to satisfaction
 - ii. Brokenhearted – Sin breaks relationships but Christ will bring people back together
 - iii. Captives – Sin enslaves but Christ will deliver us out of being forced into sin

- iv. Blind – Sin blind our direction & wisdom but Christ will give us direction & wisdom
 - 1. Interesting: Jesus pulled this from Isa 42:7, not from passage He was reading
 - v. Bruised – Sin wounds its victims but Christ provides freedom away from wounds
- 3. They stood to read Bible, then sat to teach
 - 4. What does this message NOT say?
 - a. Jesus cut this short to express a divide in the purposes of the Messiah
 - b. He didn't read "The day of vengeance..."
 - c. He'll perform some parts now & some later

Read Vs 21-22a

- 1. That very day Jesus was already anointed, sent, preaching, healing & setting free (all the verbs)
- 2. Everyone's first response is 'this is wonderful'

Read Vs 22b-24

- 1. They begin to doubt that a man (& one they know well) could possibly be Messiah

2. *This Hometown Crowd is epitomized by the expression “We know who You are not”*
3. Jesus knows they’re gonna ask for Him to heal all bodily needs, like He’s already been doing, but He’s there for so much more than that
 - a. Jesus emphasizes His *prophetic* mission more than His *healing* mission
 - b. He wants them to focus more on believing than on receiving

Read Vs 25-28

1. These examples illustrate two principles
 - a. God isn’t bias, but looks for faith
 - b. Don’t look at messenger but the message to come to God by faith
2. They’re angry b/c He’s making case, ‘you’re not special b/c you’re in Israel or of my family

Read Vs 29-30

1. Seems to be a miracle that He walked thru
2. The fickleness of man – One minute they love you & the next they want you dead

2nd attribute needed to benefit from the identity of Jesus is submission (Vs 31-37)

Read Vs 31-32 – *Capernaum Synagogue Demon*

1. Jesus taught as one having authority (within Himself) and not as the scribes
2. Scribes just quoted another teacher's interpretation; Jesus' interpretation resonated as true

Read Vs 33-34

1. This guy with an evil spirit 'came to church every Sunday' (Crow & Dove Story)
 - a. Same as the damsel in Act 16:16
 - b. What did he do every week? Hinder people from receiving the truth
2. Demons are smart
 - a. They know they're appointed to destruction
 - b. They know who Jesus is in power & purity
 - c. They know they failed to corrupt Him at His temptation by Satan
3. *These demons are epitomized by the expression "We know who You are"*

Read Vs 35

1. Jesus wants to heal but not reveal at this time
2. There's never much attention given to demonic

Read Vs 36-37

1. They were astonished at His teaching & now at his power over the spiritual realm of devils
2. His words and actions aligned

3rd attribute needed to benefit from the identity of Jesus is priority (Vs 38-44)

Read Vs 38-39 – *Many healings*

1. The only proper response to receiving grace is to serve
2. Notice Jesus does private miracles as well as public ones
 - a. He's not doing it for the publicity and fame
 - b. He's doing it for His great love & compassion

3. So Simon Peter was married
 - a. Catholics claim Peter as the 1st Pope (he wasn't), then why do they disallow marriage?
 - b. Read I Tim 4:1-3 – forbidding to marry

Read Vs 40-41

1. Many healings but not time to gain attention
2. Now we have the Father (3:22), the devil (4:3) & demons declaring Jesus as the Son of God
 - a. In mouth of 2-3 witnesses a thing is established

Read Vs 42-44

1. Jesus cared for people constantly, but the focus was the teaching
2. There was enough need & desire that He could have spent 100% of His time healing
 - a. That's only of temporary benefit
 - b. That ultimately still sends them to hell
3. *The multitudes are epitomized by the expression “We know who we want You to be”*

Conclusion

We need to see Jesus for who He really is to benefit from His life in us

1. **We need faith – to rid ourselves of this curse of familiarity**
 - a. Have we stopped asking God to do great things in our lives b/c we have become so accustomed to our religious routines?
2. **We need submission – to rid ourselves of serving our own will**
 - a. Have we set up our will and desire as more important than His plans and His glory?
3. **We need priority – to rid ourselves of looking only on the temporary & earthly**
 - a. Have we lost focus on living for eternal things like people's salvation & Christian growth b/c we think only of comfort in the here & now?

Read Matt 16:13-17 – We need to ask the Father to renew us spiritually to see Jesus for who He really is!!