

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (January 23, 2022)

FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

As we learned last week confession without humility is an exercise in futility. Confession admits that we are imperfect, that we've failed others, we've failed God, and we've failed ourselves too. Confession is an honest cry for help. We confess our personal failings, and we confess the failures of our community too. The beauty of our Christian faith is that honest confession brings genuine forgiveness.

"If we confess our sins, He (God) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness". 1 John 1:9

This Sunday we return to our study in the book of Luke, and specifically the passage from last week. Jesus returned to His hometown of Nazareth. When He spoke during the Sabbath service everyone applauded. They were thrilled He was so well spoken. "Look at Joseph's son, He's all grown up!" But when what Jesus said challenged their comfortable understanding of God and how God was at work in the world, blood pressures started to rise. But by the end of the service they wanted to throw Him out of town and off the hill. Are we ready for Jesus? Are we ready to have Him disturb us, challenge us, change us? If not, when He speaks our blood pressure will certainly rise. Jesus is not pulling any punches. The stakes are too high. He loves us too much to let us comfortably destroy our lives.

Rejection And The Call Of God (Luke 4:14-30)

¹⁴ And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country.

¹⁵ And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the **prophet Isaiah** was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸ 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, **'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'** ²² And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' And he said to them, 'Doubtless you will

quote to me this proverb, "Physician, heal yourself." What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.'" ²⁴ And he said, 'Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. ²⁵ But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, ²⁶ and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. ²⁷ And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.' ²⁸ When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. ²⁹ And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. ³⁰ But passing through their midst, he went away."

NEW QUESTIONS: What Does it Say?

1. What does this passage tell us about Jesus' power?
2. What does this passage tell us about the way Jesus taught?
3. How did Jesus response to the praise of his neighbors?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

4. What does this passage reveal about God's priorities?
5. Why did Jesus choose these two Old Testament examples?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

6. How would you have responded if you had been one of Jesus' neighbors, listening to Him that Sabbath?
7. What have you learned from Jesus that makes you uncomfortable? How did you / do you respond?
8. In what practical ways are you living out God's call to: speak good news to the poor? speak freedom to those who are captive? help the blind and set free the oppressed?

Notes: _____

As you spend time praying remember that prayer is meant to be the most natural, easy, and empowering part of your day. Prayer is talking to God, knowing that He hears you, and that He loves you. In your prayers ask God to help you listen to, and be changed by, the hard things Jesus says. Ask God for a heart that cares for the poor, the blind, the oppressed, the hurting, lonely, those help captive. God will help you because He cares deeply about you.