

LUKE 4-6

LIBERTY FOR THE CAPTIVES



Five Barriers to Belief– Luke 4:14-30

May 3, 2026

Christchurch Newport continues Liberty for the Captives as Lewis Roderick explores a dramatic shift that took place in Nazareth - why did the people move so quickly from at Jesus to outright rejection. Why did those who knew Him best refuse to believe?

In this message we consider five hidden barriers to faith: familiarity, scepticism, entitlement, self-righteousness, and offence at the wideness of Christ's love, and consider how Jesus came for the spiritually poor— no matter how long we've been followers of Jesus.

For personal reflection/community discussion

Read – Read the passage in its context several times. Read it slow enough to understand what God is saying through it.

- What ideas or words are emphasised, repeated or related in this passage?
- In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage? (Try to summarise these verses in 10 words or less)

Examine – Next, try to understand the specifics of what the passage is communicating.

- What do you notice about God? What has he done/is he doing in these verses?
- What do you learn about Jesus and his gospel from this passage?
- What does it reveal about people?
- How do you think the writer wanted his reader to respond to these words?

Apply - After seeking to understand God's Word in this passage, consider how he intends to use it in your heart and life today.

- Where has familiarity with Jesus dulled your sense of awe? Be honest- does he feel predictable, manageable, or "figured out"? What would it look like to recover wonder again?
- What are the conditions you've (quietly) placed on trusting God? Where do you resonate with "I'll believe when..." or "I'll trust if..."? How does the cross challenge those conditions?
- In what ways does self-righteousness or entitlement subtly show up in your life? Not the obvious sins- but the deeper attitudes. Where might you be assuming you "deserve" something from God?
- Who are the people you find hardest to believe Jesus fully welcomes? What does your reaction reveal about your understanding of His grace—and what might it look like to embody His radical, boundary-crossing love?
- We're still poor in Spirit, aren't we? So before you leave, spend some time reflecting on Christ's promise in v.18; even in our poverty, there is good news in Jesus Christ.