

Text: Luke 4:14-30

Title: "This Scripture Has Come True..."

Introduction: This week we continue with our second week in our worship series following the "Holy Land Tour". Again, I have had the privilege of getting to go to Israel and surrounding areas to study the Christian faith a few times now. There is nothing that I would rather do than to pack you all up and take you to the Holy Land. The chance to walk in the same places that Jesus walked and see the artifacts that have been dug up and to experience the terrain of that part of the world; all of that helps our Scriptures and our beliefs come alive.

Last week, we were on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea (MAP). We utilized Acts 10 to experience the cities of Joppa and Caesarea by the Sea through the story of Peter and Cornelius. Remember that this was a key moment in time for the Christian movement and Church because Peter discovered that Jesus came, not just for the Jewish people, but for all people ... including Gentiles! This does not seem like a big deal for us today, but in that day, in that society, what Peter did in Acts 10 was unheard of... or, was it?

That was last week. This week we head 25 miles inland from Caesarea by the Sea to Jesus' hometown of Nazareth. Now, although that is the route that we are taking and I hope you all walked or ran your 25 miles on the walking tour of Israel (expound on the walking tour?), Jesus did not approach Nazareth from that direction.

At this time, I invite you to take the insert out of your PASSPORT. On one side you will find our Scripture for today and on the other, you will find a brief outline with fill-in-the-blanks. The idea, again, is that you would take time to fill-in-the-blanks! I hope that taking time to fill these in and jot down some notes from what you see and hear today will help you remember what we have learned today. I hope this helps you grow in your faith and maybe helps someone you know grow in their faith too. If you are joining us ONLINE, our programs/passports are downloadable, so that you also can take notes on today's message.

According to the Book of Luke, what comes before our Scripture for today is the story of Jesus in the wilderness. Jesus has just been baptized in the Jordan River by his cousin, John the Baptist. From there Jesus moves out into the Judean wilderness and is tempted by the devil for 40 days and nights.

Now, in our Scripture for today, we find that Jesus is back up north in the area of the Sea of Galilee. It doesn't take Jesus long, as he starts his ministry, to start building a following (MAP OFF). Listen to this:

READ LUKE 4:14-30 NOW AND PRAY!

So, Jesus has been baptized and tempted and now He has returned to the area of Galilee to start his ministry. Notice that according to Luke, Jesus does not have any disciples yet. Jesus does not start inviting those men to follow Him until Chapter 5.

- I. He's So Popular (vs. 14-15)

- A. Alright, so Jesus has started his ministry in the area of Galilee and people start to get excited about Jesus' teaching.
- B. Why? Well, Luke talks a lot about the power of the Holy Spirit ... Remember Jesus came to earth as a human being just like us. Luke talks about the Holy Spirit being with Jesus just like we can have the Holy Spirit with us.
 - 1. I don't know if you have experienced this or not, but you can tell if someone is filled with God's Holy Spirit.
 - 2. Someone filled with the Holy Spirit is not like they used to be ... they have changed for the better. There has been a transformation in their life!
 - 3. Someone filled with God's Holy Spirit is more kind and loving in situations where they normally would not be!
 - 4. Able to make a positive difference in the world around them.
 - 5. With the Holy Spirit, we have the power to do and say things that will build up God's Kingdom ... otherwise we are just doing good deeds.
- C. Jesus quickly becomes very popular and the people start to follow Jesus from town to town around the lake.
 - 1. It says that word spread quickly about Jesus.
 - 2. Have you ever experienced news traveling fast?
 - 3. The towns around the Sea of Galilee were small towns ... in small towns, news (good or bad) travels very fast!
 - 4. Let's say that something happened this morning in worship that was great ... like, "They built a whole DOCK at the United Methodist Church!" ... How long do you think it will take to get that kind of news to spread around town? To Woodman? Fennimore? Wauzeka? Steuben? Eastman? Prairie?

II. Going Home

- A. To the Synagogue As Usual (v. 16)
 - 1. From here we find out that while he is traveling from town to town in the Galilee area, he comes to his hometown of Nazareth (PICTURE OF CITY AND PICTURE OF MARY'S WELL). Nazareth is a town built on a couple of hills over looking the Valley of Armageddon.
 - 2. And it says that "AS USUAL" when the Sabbath rolled around, Jesus went to the Synagogue.
 - a. When the enemies of the Hebrew/Jewish people destroyed their Temple and scattered the Jewish people to different parts of the world, the people knew that they needed to be able to worship, so they set up Synagogues.
 - b. Synagogues were often larger rooms built off of a house where the boys of the community could come and learn during the week and the people of the community could worship on the Sabbath.

3. When Jesus went to the Synagogue in Nazareth, he, as a traveling Rabbi, was invited to share in the worship.
 4. Rabbis traveling through another community would often be asked to read Scripture and share their thoughts on that Scripture.
- B. Reading from the Isaiah Scroll (v. 17-19)
1. It says that the scroll of the Book of Isaiah was handed to Jesus ... In Synagogues there was someone in charge of the worship. That person would pick which SCROLL they would use for worship that day.
 2. So, Jesus is handed the Isaiah scroll and he opens it up to what we know as Isaiah 61, which is a Scripture that has to do with the Messiah that the Hebrew people have been promised by God (Messiah = Son of God/Savior/King ... someone to free them from their oppressors.).
 3. Isaiah was a prophet who talked about the One who would come for the:
 - a. Poor to hear the Good News about eternity in Paradise
 - b. The Captives will be released,
 - c. The blind will be able to see, and the
 - d. Oppressed will be set free (under Roman rule)!
 4. What a great, encouraging Scripture reading for those people in Nazareth! But Jesus did not stop there.
- C. Attention Getter (vs. 20-21)
1. Ever been bored in worship while the preacher is talking?
 2. A really cool thing happens here for Jesus ... he gets done reading, goes back to his seat and sits down ... it says "All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently."
 3. Jesus had their attention!
 4. It was custom in their faith in the 1st Century to have the Rabbi stand to read Scripture and then sit down to teach/preach.
 5. Jesus sat down and they were ready to hear what He had to say pertaining to that encouraging Scripture ... I'm sure you have all experienced that here...
 6. Jesus simply says, "What you just heard from that Scripture is coming true before your very eyes!"
- D. Wait a Minute! (v. 22)
1. At first the people are kind of excited about what Jesus said ... Wow! The time has come for us to be out from under Roman rule?!?
 2. Wow! The Messiah is here? We've waited generation after generation for this day to come!
 3. The people are amazed at Jesus' teaching ... and excited!

4. The Messiah ... WAIT! You're the Messiah?!? You can't be the Messiah! You're that carpenter's kid. You were a nice kid and all, but you're the son of a carpenter, not God!
REMEMBER ... this is probably Jesus' childhood synagogue where Jesus went to school and worship as a kid and young adult.

III. Two Prophets (vs. 23-27)

- A. Now, the people aren't really saying this stuff out loud, but Jesus knows what they are saying ... "the Messiah is here, but that can't be him!" ... We've heard about the miracles that some guy is doing over in Capernaum, but that can't be JESUS!
- B. So, Jesus says, "I know, you want me to do a miracle here, like you've heard has happened in Capernaum (Jesus new home), but even if I do, you still won't believe! You will still be stuck on, 'Isn't that Joseph and Mary's boy?'"
- C. Now, please don't miss what Jesus does here. He obviously knows his hometown and the Jewish religious leaders in the Galilee area, so he simply says, "No prophet is accepted in his hometown."
 1. In other words, "You're not going to listen to what I have to say anyway."
 2. How many of you call Boscobel / Mt. Zion your hometown? Have you been allowed to grow up, or have the people not forgotten what you did 10, 20, 50 years ago?
 3. Sometimes our hometown holds on to that childhood image and never lets us grow up.
 4. I cannot imagine going back to my home church and pastoring ... so many of those people would struggle to get past what I acted like as a little kid...
- D. So, here's what Jesus says then ... the people aren't mad at him yet, but just wait. Jesus knows that in the synagogue most people know their Scriptures, so he makes a couple of Scripture references...
 1. In Elijah's time (great prophet of the Hebrew/Jewish nation), God sent Elijah to a widow in Sidon even though the Jewish widows were also suffering from the famine conditions.
 2. In Elisha's time (also a great prophet), he was sent to heal a leper from Syria instead of all the lepers in Israel.
 3. When Elijah and Elisha were living, that was one of the lowest times in the history of Israel. This was a time when the Jewish people had really turned their backs on God ... the people were wicked and evil!
 4. AND, Jesus just compared the people of Nazareth to those wicked people ... Jesus just said to them that He was not going to do miracles for them because they were wicked and not of God. "But, we go to church every Sabbath!"

5. It would be like saying, “God will save Hitler or Saddam Hussein before you! ... That’s how wicked you have become.”
 6. NOW THEY ARE MAD!
- IV. The Mobbing (vs. 28-30)
- A. That’s it! Using the time of Elijah and Elisha was extremely strong and offensive ... obviously!
 - B. It says that they were FURIOUS. They jumped up, mobbed Jesus and intended to stone him to death.
 1. The ritual was to take a person to the edge of the town on a cliff, throw the person over the cliff and then throw rocks (the size of a human head) on their head and chest until they died (CLIFF PICTURE OVER ARMAGEDDON).
 2. This was not something they did often ... it had to be a severe offense ... it also had to be taken to court to happen.
 - C. Those people were so furious at Jesus that they didn’t care about taking time to follow the law and have Jesus tried.
 - D. Those people were so furious at Jesus that they didn’t care that it was the Sabbath and that no one was executed on the Sabbath. They were mad!
 - E. Remember, these were people who had attended Church all of their lives and studied the Scriptures and now they were being told that they were more wicked than the most wicked people they knew of!
 - F. Then, all Luke gives us is that somehow Jesus just passed through the crowd and went on his way. Luke is letting us know that the time for Jesus to die was not right yet.
 - G. Well, that leads us to our question for this morning...
- V. Reject or Accept?
- A. Jesus is here in our synagogue/church with us. Are we saying, “It couldn’t be as Jesus said!” or are we willing to say, “I don’t understand it all, but I believe that you, Jesus, are the Messiah!”
 - B. In a couple of weeks, we are going to be asked the question along with the disciples, “Who do you say that I am?”
 - C. The people were so mad about what Jesus said that they were ready to kill Jesus on the Sabbath. The idea of there being one way to God’s Kingdom usually brings about some pretty serious emotions ... what are yours?
 - D. To hear Jesus say to us that even though we go to church every week, we are still some of the most wicked people alive, probably doesn’t set well with us...
 - E. What will we do? Will we chose to change and be who God wants us to be, or will we hang on to the way we’ve always done things in our individual lives.

Let’s Pray!

Communion...