



EMPOWERED: HOME TOWN TENSION

the inauguration of the mission

February 4, 2024

Luke 4:14-30

Luke 3-4: Luke described four events that served to inaugurate Jesus' public ministry. 1) **John the Baptist's ministry** to prepare Israel to receive the Messiah, 2) **Jesus' baptism (and genealogy)** revealed His credentials to fulfill His Father's redemptive purposes, 3) **Jesus' testing in the wilderness** as a victorious, powerful, and sinless Savior, and 4) **Jesus' return to Galilee and the beginning of His public ministry.**

Luke 4:14-30: Jesus declared Himself to be the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan according to the prophet **Isaiah**. As Israel's Messiah, Jesus was bringing "**good news**" to their "poor and blinded" bondage to sin. The tension of Israel's spiritual and physical poverty was **palpable**.

Coram Deo: Preaching the gospel of Christ at home creates an unavoidable **tension** for the need of repentance. God's favor toward those in the bondages of sin calls them to find redemption in Christ alone. Have you ever pleaded with a family member to give up their sin and poverty?

THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS' MINISTRY!

I. GOOD NEWS: THE MESSIAH CAME TEACHING (powerfully.)

Luke 4:14–16 *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.*

II. GOOD NEWS: THE MESSIAH CAME PROCLAIMING (scripturally.)

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.*

III. GOOD NEWS: THE MESSIAH CAME REVEALING (sovereignly.)

And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" 23 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.

Coram Deo: Jesus introduces the tension of trusting Him by proclaiming that **He is our resolution** to our human condition/inability.

1. Bring him your **poverty**, your **infirmities**, and your **bondages**.
2. **Turn from sin** and realize His good news.
3. He redeems both your soul and your circumstances into a **new existence** and way of living.
4. His provision is **greater than food**, health, and freedom; but such things are provided for along the path of **trusting in Him alone**.

Jesus **graciously** provides for those who otherwise have no hope. What is your greatest need today? What is Jesus offering you today?

Invitation:

1. Do you want Jesus? Or, do you merely want your life to improve?
2. Do you see yourself as a **sinner**? (Rom 2:23)
3. Do you see Jesus on the Cross as your **Savior**? (Rom 6:23)
4. Has God made your heart **ready** to follow Christ and do what He says?

Following Christ opens a whole new world in which to live your life on earth. Our desires change and our perceived needs change. The things of this world give way to the priority of **Christ's lordship**. The **riches** of Christ, the **food** of Christ, and the **freedom** of Christ flow generously into our lives.