

INVESTIGATIVE BIBLE DISCUSSION

Luke 4:14-30

[14] Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. [15] He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

[16] He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. [17] The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

[18] “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the
prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind,
to release the oppressed,

[19] to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

[20] Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, [21] and he began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

[22] All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.

[23] Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself! Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’ “

[24] “I tell you the truth,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. [25] I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. [26] Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. [27] And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed--only Naaman the Syrian.”

[28] All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. [29] They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. [30] But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

Questions

1. Highlight the main and minor characters
2. Where or when does the story take place?
3. What are the key events, activities or ideas presented in this passage?
4. How did the characters respond to Jesus personally, to what he said, or to what they saw?
5. How is Jesus described (by himself or others, claims made, character traits displayed)?
6. What values were taught/demonstrated by Jesus?
7. What truths/principles, were taught or demonstrated by Jesus?
8. What conclusions or observations can you draw?

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BACKGROUND

Jesus read from the Old Testament book of Isaiah. The passage dealt with the prophecy of a deliverer, a prophet...a Messiah. He claimed to be the fulfillment of the expectation.

KEY WORDS

Synagogue: Congregation of the Jews for the purpose of religious instruction and worship apart from the service of the temple.

Sabbath: The seventh day of the week (Saturday) celebrated as the day of rest and religious observation among the Jews.

Galilee: An ancient Roman province in Israel. An area north of Jerusalem that included the Sea of Galilee and Jesus' home town.

Nazareth: A town in lower Galilee; hometown of Mary and Joseph and the town where Jesus grew up.

Isaiah: An Old Testament prophet. His Old Testament writings include many prophecies regarding the coming Messiah.

Elijah/Elisha: Old Testament prophets who conducted many miracles during their lifetimes.