

LUKE 4:14-30

Jesus in Nazareth





The text – Luke 4:14-30

1. Jesus was led into the wilderness “by the Spirit” (4:1). He returned to Galilee “in the power of the Spirit” (4:14). What does that mean? What was the relationship of Jesus to the Spirit of God?
2. Read Luke 4:18-19. These words are taken from Isaiah 61:1-2, as well as other portions of Isaiah. At the heart of Jesus’s mission is “recovery of sight for the blind”. Why is this at the centre? Also read the words of Jesus in Luke 6:39-42. What is meant by blindness in this passage?
3. Jesus said, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing”. What did he mean?
4. How do you understand the response to Jesus in 4:22-23? (In 4:22 the words “all spoke well of him” may also be translated “all spoke against him”).
5. Why does Jesus compare his ministry to that of Elijah (4:24-26) and Elisha (4:27)?
6. Why did the people who heard Jesus in the synagogue that day want to kill him?

The Scriptures – Luke 4:14-30 as a portion of the Scriptures

7. Jesus frequently affirms that he fulfills the Scriptures (Luke 4:21). What does he mean by that? See also Luke 24:36-49, a most important portion of Luke.
8. Read Isaiah 61:1-6. What portions of this passage of Scripture does Jesus leave out? Why?
9. Matthew 13:54-58 and Mark 6:1-6 also speak about Jesus in Nazareth. Read either or both of these texts and discuss what you learn about Jesus and his relationship with people in Nazareth.
10. Jesus compares himself to both Elijah and Elisha in Luke 4:24-27. The ministries of these prophets are very significant in the history of Israel as recorded in the Scriptures from 1 Kings 17 to 2 Kings 13. As part of a longer engagement with the Scriptures, read the lives of Elijah and Elisha and think deeply about comparisons and contrasts to the life of Jesus. How do these great prophets pave the way for the life of Jesus?

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Luke 4:14-30 as a portion of the Scriptures

11. How would you describe your relationship with God the Spirit? What does it mean to “walk by the Spirit”? What does it mean to live in the “power of the Spirit”?
12. Jesus ushers in a new world that is shaped by extravagant grace. Paul speaks about God’s grace as “lavish” in Ephesians 1:8. What does that mean for the way we live?
13. How can we encourage you in your life with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as we respond to this portion of Luke?