

“Is This Not Joseph's Son?”

Sermon Notes

- **Jesus' teaching ministry is both thrilling and threatening – but one thing it most certainly is not is boring**

**When pressed home by the Holy Spirit in power...*

1. ...the words of Christ are calculated to _____ in our souls (vv.16-22a)

2. ...the words of Christ are calculated to _____ in our souls (vv.22b-30)

Next Week: Luke 4:31-44 - “You Are the Son of God!”

Community Group Study Guide
For the Week of April 23rd – May 6th

Please read Luke 4:16-30.

1. In today's text, Jesus reads from Isaiah 61:1-2.
 - a. The speaker in Isaiah's prophecy was to be God's "anointed one," that is, the Messiah. In this passage, has he claimed the title for himself?
 - b. God's anointed one, who was to be endowed by the Holy Spirit, was to be from the House of David (see Isaiah 11:1-2). Didn't the people in Nazareth know of Joseph's royal lineage? Please explain. (See verse 22, and Luke 2:4)
 - c. As the text says, the arrival of the year of the Lord's favor is good news. (See Isaiah 11:4-7). Why was the response of the people of Nazareth so negative?
 - d. Good news has previously been mentioned in Luke 1:19; 2:10, and 3:18. Is this the same good news? Why or why not?
 - e. The recovery of sight to the blind is from Isaiah 42:7, and refers to the Suffering Servant of the Lord. Is Jesus equating the role of the Suffering Servant and the Messiah here? Please explain. Is he talking about physical or spiritual blindness, or both? Please explain your answer.
 - g. The second half of Isaiah 61:2 reads, "and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn." Why do you think Jesus stopped reading after the first half verse?
2. According to the English translation, the reaction of Jesus' audience is positive in verse 22 (this is less clear in the Greek), but negative in verse 28. What has changed?
 - a. Verse 22 talks about Jesus' gracious words. Were the words gracious because of the delivery, or were they words about God's grace? Please explain.
 - b. In verse 23, Jesus seems to have anticipated the crowd's negative response. Does this follow from their response in verse 22? Is his foreknowledge prophetic? Might there have been something in their reaction that tipped him off? Or, was this simply an example of his keen awareness of the workings of the human heart? Please explain your answer.
 - c. Jesus mentions some sort of wonders being done in Capernaum (verse 23) but no activity in Capernaum has yet been mentioned. What does this suggest about the arrangement of Luke's narrative? (See Luke 1:3)
 - d. Why do you think Nazareth was exempt from the miraculous benefits exhibited elsewhere in Galilee?
 - e. Compare the proverb that Jesus quotes, "Physician, heal thyself" with the temptation of Satan in the desert in Luke 4:3. Is the spirit of Jesus' neighbors in Nazareth Satanic? Please explain.
 - f. How does Jesus' reception in Nazareth (verses 28-29) compare with his reception in the rest of Galilee? (verse 15)
 - g. Jesus compares the fate of Nazareth with the fate of Israel in the days of Elijah and Elisha (see verses 25-27). Why did the nation of Israel fail to receive blessing during the ministry of the Old Testament prophets? (See Deuteronomy 28)

3. Jesus passed through the midst of an angry crowd that wanted to throw him off a cliff. (See verses 29-30)

a. Do you think a miracle was involved? Why or why not?