

Jesus Confronts Closed Hearts

Group Study Guide
Gospel of Luke Series

Main text: Luke 4:22-30

Supporting texts: 1 Kings 17:8-9; 2 Kings 5:2-3

From the beginning of Jesus' public ministry people were surprised and amazed by the things He did and said. Luke tells us from the start that everyone "praised" and "spoke well" of Jesus (4:14,22). But this positive buzz, apparently, wasn't what Jesus was aiming to achieve. In Luke 4:22-30 Jesus pointedly confronts the closed hearts of his neighbors and friends in His hometown of Nazareth. All the praise and good words that had been directed His way turned suddenly into furious hostility and murderous intent. Anticipating that people would take issue with the fact that He was doing gracious and powerful things for others and not 'his own', Jesus identified the core issues that kept those with most access from actually benefiting from what He had come to do and say. Like those in Nazareth, we too can get stuck and angry, at odds with Jesus because of:

- over familiarity - we think we know what we don't really know
- under familiarity - we don't know or accept things we really need to know
- personal offense - we resent and refuse anyone who tries to correct us

Questions:

- This passage focuses on the change of opinion of people about Jesus. People praised him and then wanted to kill him. Have you ever felt anger, confusion, or like you wanted to reject Jesus because of something he did or said?
- Pastor David talked about how the people of Nazareth were over familiar with Jesus because he grew up there. How might we be guilty of over familiarity with Jesus today?
- David's next point was that we can be under familiar with things that we really need to know about God. What are some important things that are close to the heart of God that the many Christians in America are under familiar with?
- David's last point was about the personal offense that we can take when Jesus tries to correct us. How can we get over our offense and welcome the correction of Jesus? (David mentions: humility, gratitude, and redirection)