

Sermon #7: The Start of Jesus' Ministry

02/28/21

BREAKING THE ICE

- What impacted you most about this week's message?

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH

Read the Passage (Luke 4:14-30)

1. From verse 16, what do you learn about where this event in Jesus' ministry took place?
2. Verses 18-19 are a quote from Isaiah 61:1-2. Read Isaiah 61:1-2 and notice what part of the passage Jesus left out. Why might Jesus have done that? (How do Lk 19:10 & John 3:17 shed light on this?)
3. Isaiah 61:1-2 is a prophecy about the coming Messiah (i.e. chosen one or Christ). So, what is Jesus essentially saying about Himself in verse 21?
4. What does Jesus' statement require people to believe about Him?
5. How do the people respond to Jesus (vs 22)? Is the level of their response appropriate for the claim Jesus just made about Himself?
6. How does Jesus call out the people's lack of faith (vs 23-24)?
7. In verses 25-27 Jesus gives two illustrations of how God worked in the past when Israel was in a state of disobedience and unbelief. With whom did God do miracles of mercy in the past when Israel lacked faith? How is this a prediction of what is to come in Jesus' ministry?
8. How do the people of Nazareth respond to Jesus teaching this time? Why might this be so?
9. How do we, as Christians, often react similarly to Jesus' teachings?

SEEING JESUS CHRIST

Read Luke 23:35-39: *Not only at the beginning of Jesus ministry would He be challenged to prove Himself by doing miracles, but even at His last breath. Ironically, Jesus would not "heal" or save Himself because He humbly came to be our Savior. The very people whose sins would nail Him to the Cross were the people He came to save. Jesus would not save Himself because He was lovingly committed to saving us!*

- *When you see the sacrificial, selfless love that Jesus has for others, how should it change our perspective and response to His rebukes of our lack of faith and need for Him to prove Himself?*

MAKING IT MATTER

1. How does Jesus' calling "to proclaim good news to the poor, liberty to the captives, and set at liberty those who are oppressed" challenge us as the church to evaluate the totality of our mission in making disciples of all nations?
2. Do you think the church today could fall into the same trap as the Israelites of Jesus' time; lacking faith in the reality of who Jesus is? If so, what might this look like?
3. How can we, as the church, be filled with wrath about the wrong things and end up "driving Jesus out of our midst" (vs 28-29)?
4. In what area of your life do you need to more fully embrace the totality of Who Jesus is in order to properly respond in obedience to His teaching?

PRAYING FOR GOD'S POWER

"This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him." 1 John 5:14-15

When we pray according to God's will it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these things in our own strength, then it is just legalistic obedience. But, when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational AND it glorifies God.

1. Ask people to share one key, specific application from today's lesson that they want God to bring about in their life. Then take time to pray for each other in these areas.