

STUDY #3: The Messiah's Mission



(Sermon by Greg Reader Feb. 5, 2012)

notes

Scripture Ephesians 4:14-30

¹⁴ And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²² And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³ And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself.' What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well." ²⁴ And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. ²⁵ But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, ²⁶ and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. ²⁷ And there were many lepers^[a] in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. ²⁹ And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. ³⁰ But passing through their midst, he went away.

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Questions

- 1. How did Jesus return to Galilee?**

- 2. What did he read in the synaguge? What is the reference referring to?**

- 3. Read verse 21.**
 - a. What does Jesus mean by this?**

 - b. What does Jesus say he has been anointed and sent out to do?**

- 4. Take it to the heart: How has Jesus liberated/freed/ healed/restored you?**

- 5. Read verses 24-29. Why did this make the people angry enough to throw him off a cliff?**

- 6. Is there anyone in your life that you refuse to believe could be a recipient of God's grace? How does acknowledging this person or group of people help you see the way you do not completely understand God's grace?**

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Switching gears:

7. Read verse 30

- a. **Take it Out:** Now that we have experienced this release, freedom, healing and justice, how do we “walk through the crowd” with Jesus and extend it to our neighborhoods, to Hamilton and to the world? How do you see yourself living this or how do you feel convicted/called to live this out?
- b. **How do you think your small group, as a group of believers, is called to live this out?**

Prayer Points

Confess ways that you don't believe the gospel of grace is for everyone who calls on Jesus' name

Ask God to give you and your group more of a heart and burden for the poor, the oppressed and the captives

Ask God to direct you and give you the power of the Spirit to walk with Jesus and live out this passage to a city and world that is full of people who desperately need it.