



Week 5

Sermon Series: Light Dawns Darkness Trembles

Sermon Text: Luke 4:14-30

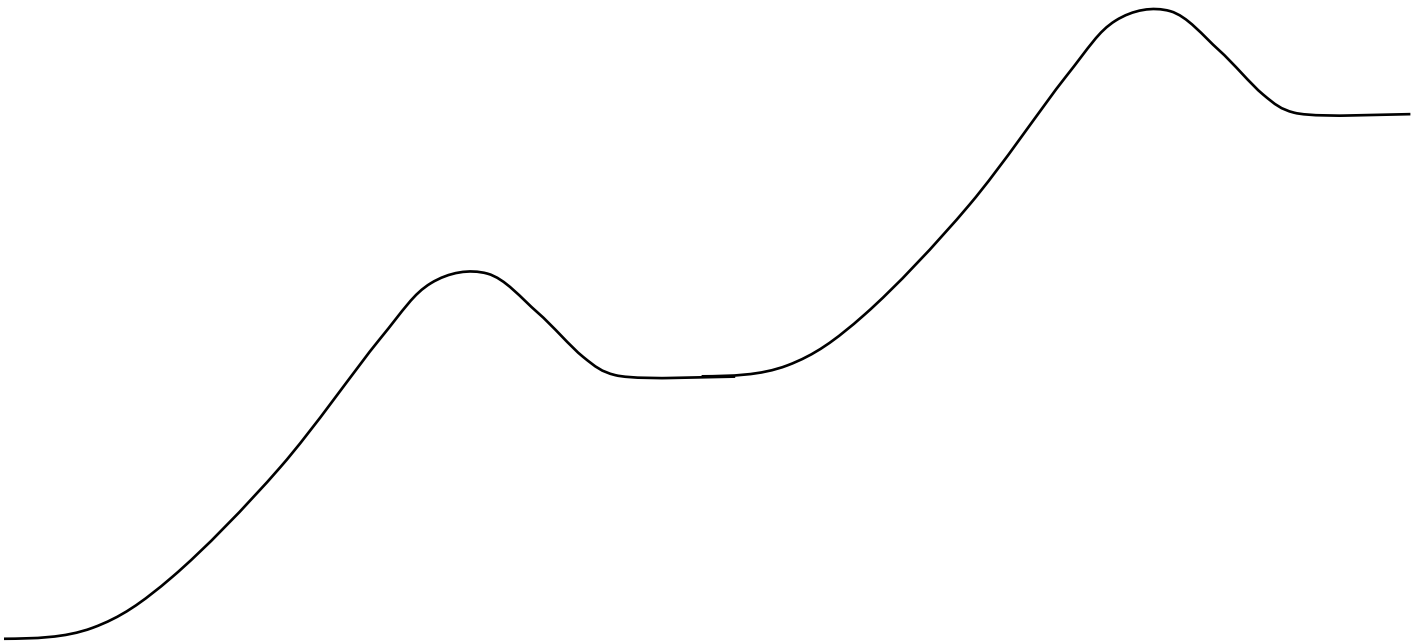
Group Week of: June 25, 2023

Sermon Date: July 2, 2023

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies	
Day 1	The Lord's Anointed – Isaiah 61:1-11
Day 2	Reading & Teaching – Nehemiah 8:1-12
Day 3	The Lord's Favor – Luke 2:1-14
Day 4	The Widow – 1 Kings 17:1-24
Day 5	Namaan – 2 Kings 5:1-27

The Text: Luke 4:14-30

- 1) **Read** the text slowly and carefully.
- 2) **Pray** for understanding, insight, and transformation.
- 3) **Fill in plot arch** by writing down versus in the story as points on the plot line to help show you where the main lessons in the story are.
- 4) **Answer** the interpretive questions at the bottom.



Textual Questions

- 1) What is (are) the main lesson (lessons) that you see God teaching through Luke in this passage?
- 2) How is the prophecy fulfilled in Christ's reading (vv 16-21)?
- 3) Why do the people of Nazareth want to kill Jesus in verse 28?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) Why do the gospel writers so frequently stress that Jesus did His ministry in the power of the Spirit (v14)? In your own words, explain why Jesus must do His ministry in the Spirit's power.
- 2) Knowing that Christ does His ministry by the power of the same Spirit He provides us should be a radically empowering truth. Why do you think many of us fail to experience the Spirit's power? Also, why do others falsify the Spirit's power?
- 3) Those who grew up around Jesus were amazed that Jesus would say Isaiah 61 had been fulfilled in Him. Their familiarity with Jesus made it very difficult for them to accept that Jesus could be the Messiah. Is *familiarity* with Jesus a detriment to faith? How do we understand the biblical command to know God while not becoming complacently familiar like the people of Nazareth?
- 4) What would it look like in our times for a cultural Christian to be so familiar with Jesus that their attitude towards Christ could be one of scorn, disregard, or complacency? How often do these behaviors and attitudes show up within the church community?
- 5) Often those who are most familiar with Christianity have the easiest time rejecting it. If you've experienced this in your own life, how does understanding Jesus' experience in Nazareth help you to understand your own experiences? If this hasn't happened in your life, how would you try to help another person understand that experience from Christ's experience here in Nazareth?
- 6) Jesus reminds the people that God showed favor to a widow of Sidon during a famine and a leper from Aram when there were many lepers in Israel. This is not only a lesson in Gentile inclusion; it also teaches us that when those familiar to Christ reject Him, He will be happy to seek out the one who will accept Him, even if that person is a stranger. Do you spend your evangelistic efforts primarily on the one familiar with Christianity who has rejected it or with the one who is a stranger and outsider to Christianity? Why?
- 7) We often avoid presenting the gospel to those we know will find it offensive. Does Christ's example here teach us that at times we should still present the gospel, even if we know it will lead to conflict? If so, how can we know when to, or when not to, preach the gospel to a darkened audience?