



## Road Trip: On the Road with Jesus in Galilee

### Week 2: Sermon at Nazareth (4:14-30)

<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region. <sup>15</sup> He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup> When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. <sup>17</sup> The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written:

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, <sup>19</sup> and that the time of the Lord's favor has come."

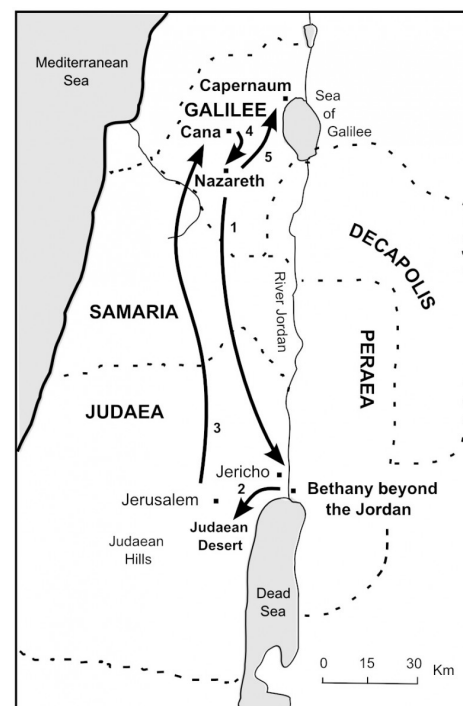
<sup>20</sup> He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. <sup>21</sup> Then he began to speak to them. "The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!"

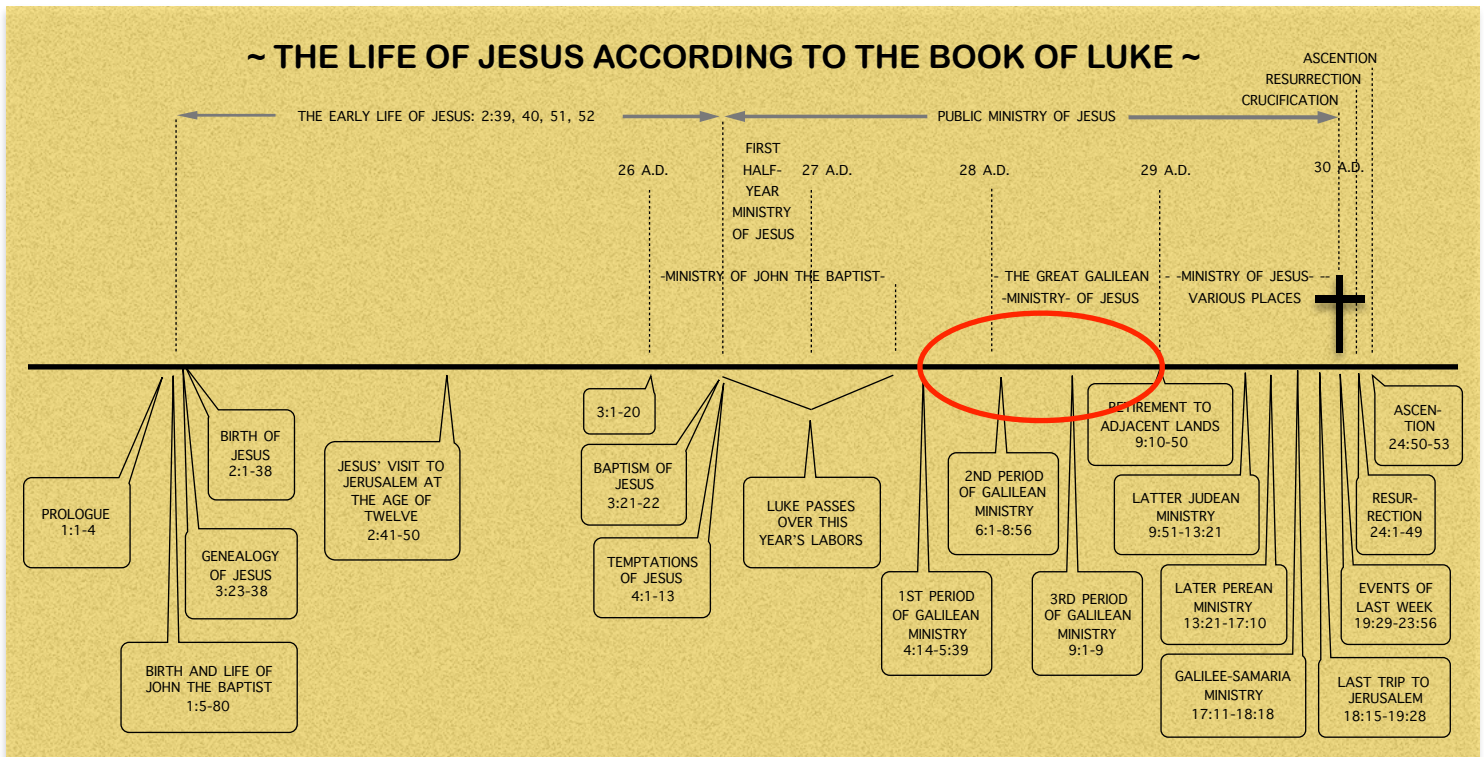
<sup>22</sup> Everyone spoke well of him and was amazed by the gracious words that came from his lips. "How can this be?" they asked. "Isn't this Joseph's son?"

<sup>23</sup> Then he said, "You will undoubtedly quote me this proverb: 'Physician, heal yourself'—meaning, 'Do miracles here in your hometown like those you did in Capernaum.' <sup>24</sup> But I tell you the truth, no prophet is accepted in his own hometown.

<sup>25</sup> "Certainly there were many needy widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the heavens were closed for three and a half years, and a severe famine devastated the land. <sup>26</sup> Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them. He was sent instead to a foreigner—a widow of Zarephath in the land of Sidon. <sup>27</sup> And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, but the only one healed was Naaman, a Syrian."

<sup>28</sup> When they heard this, the people in the synagogue were furious. <sup>29</sup> Jumping up, they mobbed him and forced him to the edge of the hill on which the town was built. They intended to push him over the cliff, <sup>30</sup> but he passed right through the crowd and went on his way. (Luke 4:14–30 NLT-SE)





## - Main Thoughts

- **Who is Luke writing to?** Luke's main audience was gentile believers. He was writing to *his* people. His gospel was taken, mostly, from interviews with people who had walked with Jesus. He had a real desire to communicate in a way that would make sense to gentile believers.
- **Ministry - Year One.** After a full year of ministry (John 1:29-4:54), mostly in towns in the area around the sea of Galilee, Jesus enjoyed a great deal of popularity among the people. Incredibly, none of this is recorded by Luke. He makes this one, brief comment...
  - <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region. <sup>15</sup> He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. (Luke 4:14-15 NLT-SE)
- **A Shift in Focus.** Something must have shifted for Jesus after his first year of ministry, probably John the baptist's arrest and imprisonment), He may have sensed a reluctance in people's hearts when it came to his emerging kingdom. For whatever reason, Jesus chooses to return to his home town of Nazareth to initiate the coming shift. While in the synagogue one Sabbath, he employed the words Isaiah 61 to announce a shift to his ministry, which is reflected in the t "The Ragamuffin Gospel: Good News for the Bedraggled, Beat-Up, and Burnt Out."
- "Jesus comes not for the super-spiritual but for the wobbly and the weak-kneed who know they don't have it all together, and who are not too proud to accept the handout of amazing grace. As we glance up, we are astonished to find the eyes of Jesus open with wonder, deep with understanding, and gentle with compassion." ~ Brennan Manning, **The Ragamuffin Gospel: Good News for the Bedraggled, Beat-Up, and Burnt Out** (p. 28, 1990).

- <sup>9</sup> As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him.<sup>10</sup> Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. <sup>11</sup> But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "**Why does your teacher eat with such scum?**" <sup>12</sup> When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do." <sup>13</sup> Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners." (Matt 9:9–13 NLT-SE)
- **What would YOU have learned from Jesus during this trip back to His home town?**
  - **Meet people where they're at...**He didn't call people to himself, but met them where they were and spoke into their lives, in the midst of their lives. He seemed called to the synagogue as a place to engage with His people.
    - "The only time you'll find God in a box is when He wants to be where we are." ~ Wm. Paul Young, author of *The Shack*
  - **Let the Word of God have a voice...**The Word of God preaches. Jesus let the Scriptures speak. He knew that there was power to not just people's hearts with sentimentality, but to direct their paths with power as well.
    - <sup>17</sup> The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written: <sup>18</sup> "**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...**"<sup>20</sup> He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. (Luke 9:17–18, 20 NLT-SE)
  - **The power of God is very attractive...**Jesus didn't apologize for His reputation as a miracle worker. He had been ministering in the Word and in Power for over a year now. People had heard about the works he had performed and he was looking for opportunities for that power to be poured out wherever he went.
  - **Jesus always knew his audience...**He knew they wanted to believe him, but there they were prideful and presumptuous. They were a people who had a privileged relationship with God and they knew it!
  - **Familiarity often breeds presumption and complacency...**A prophet is honored everywhere but in his home town. **Some of the toughest places to share your faith are among those who know you best; your family, friends, and co-workers where your main battle is with familiarity.**
- **Activation: Releasing the Power of Love!**
  - Stop worrying about **scoring** (the "salvation" experience) and start **loving** (the "encounter God" experience).
    - <sup>34</sup> So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. <sup>35</sup> Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." (John 13:34–35 NLT-SE)
  - Let God's love **flow through you**.
    - <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us. <sup>13</sup> And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. (1 John 4:11–13 NLT-SE)
  - **Pay attention** to people's response to God's love and celebrate it!