

# Jesus' Homecoming

Luke 4:14-30

## Introduction:

1. I'm glad to be here with you today for Homecoming
2. In considering what to preach I thought of Bible homecomings
  - a. Jacob went back to Bethel which was a homecoming of sorts
  - b. I thought of the prodigal son returning home – what a homecoming
  - c. I contemplated preaching on heaven which is a homecoming
3. But, instead of those, I felt led to preach on Jesus' Homecoming in Lu 4
4. **Lu 4:14** And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about. **15** And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.
  - a. When a small town boy grows up, goes out and makes a name for himself, then comes back home, the old men extol him, the women admire him and the children idolize him
  - b. He becomes the talk of the town – local paper runs a big story
  - c. The boy no one knew or gave much attention is the hometown hero
  - d. The poorer and more despised the town – the greater the hero
5. So let's notice the account and the application

## I. The Account of Jesus' Homecoming

### A. Jesus' Custom – to Attend Church – vs 16

**16** And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

1. His City - Nazareth
  - a) 72 mi n of Jerusalem - Not a village, but a city (Barclay)
  - b) Not known for any achievement or excellence – “Can any good..”
  - c) After the trip to Egypt, Mary and Joseph returned to Nazareth where young Jesus grew up.
    - (1) He was educated there
    - (2) Jesus worked at his trade there
  - d) It is always interesting to go back home - Seymour, IN
  - e) Now Jesus is famous
    - (1) He was baptized -- 40 days being tempted in the wilderness
    - (2) Then he returned to Galilee after a year of public ministry
2. His Worship
  - a) As his custom was he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day
  - b) If anyone didn't need to go to church, Jesus didn't, He went anyway
  - c) He had the habit of going to public worship in the synagogue as a boy, a habit that he kept up when a grown man.

## **B. Jesus' Communication – the Word of God – vs 17-19**

**17** And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, **18** The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, **19** To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. Jesus was invited to read the Scripture portion for that day

1. Jesus read Isaiah 61:1-2
  - a) *Did Jesus request this scroll? – Was it the appointed reading?*
  - b) *Or did the ruler of the synagogue choose this reading?*
2. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me"
  - a) *This is recognized as a Messianic passage*
  - b) *Our Savior directly applies it to Himself*
3. "Because He hath anointed me "
  - a) *Kings, prophets, high priests were set apart by anointing with oil*
  - b) *Jesus was the anointed one - but not anointed by man, but by God*
4. "To preach the gospel to the poor"
  - a) *All mankind is poor in spirit and needs salvation*
  - b) *Sin impoverishes, but the gospel is good news for the poor*
5. "He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted"
  - a) *Sin breaks hearts – Those burdened by a sense of their own sin*
  - b) *The gospel is good news to those who are brokenhearted over sin*
6. "To preach deliverance to the captives"
  - a) *Sin enslaves and makes people captives*
  - b) *None but Jesus can give deliverance to the captives*
7. "Recovering of sight to the blind"
  - a) *Sin blinds*
  - b) *The good news of the gospel is that Jesus can open blinded eyes*
8. "To set at liberty them that are bruised"
  - a) *Sin oppresses its victims but Jesus can give liberty and freedom*
  - b) *"Bruised" has the same idea as "brokenhearted" above*

## **C. Jesus' Commentary – the Word Fulfilled – vs 20-27**

1. Jesus Clearly Claimed to be the Messiah – vs 20-21

**20** And he closed the book, and he gave *it* again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. **21** And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

  - a) *Jesus finished the reading - handed the scroll back the attendant*
  - b) *He sat down – and made this startling statement*
    - (1) He was the One about whom Isaiah was writing
    - (2) He was the anointed One of whom the prophet wrote

2. The People Didn't Believe – vs 22

**22** And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

a) *At first the people responded with wonder*

- (1) They heard with pleasure, but not with profit
- (2) They nodded their heads but did not bow their hearts

b) *Then there was disbelief*

- (1) "How could Jesus be the Messiah? He is Joseph's son."
- (2) "When he was little we saw him playing in the street with the other kids"
- (3) "We saw him in the carpenter shop. He fixed our furniture, ox cart etc."
- (4) "How could he be the Messiah – Jesus is just a poor kid from Nazareth"

3. Entertain Us with a Few Miracles – vs 23

**23** And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country. **24** And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.

4. Unbelief caused many to miss God's blessings

**25** But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; **26** But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow. **27** And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.

**D. Jesus' Conflict – They Didn't Like What He Said – v28-30**

**28** And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, **29** And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong. **30** But he passing through the midst of them went his way,

1. They had enough - They Attempted to Stone Jesus

- a) *It was bad enough to be told that they were poor, and blind and captive and oppressed*
- b) *But to be told that they were less spiritual than the Gentiles was just too much*
- c) *He deserved to die – he deserved to be stoned to death*

2. They broke up their synagogue service

3. They forgot about the holiness of the day

4. They took Jesus to the edge of the city to throw him over the edge

5. Then they would finish the job by stoning Him until life was beaten from his body

6. The pile of stones would be his burying place

7. A silent and gruesome warning to others

## II. The Application from Jesus' Homecoming

### A. \_\_\_\_\_ **Baptist Church - Continue to Emphasize the Bible**

1. The Jewish synagogue service focused on Scripture
2. Matthew Henry said that up to seven readers were chosen to read portions of Scripture
3. Many churches today are no longer emphasizing the Bible
4. **Ps 12:6** The words of the LORD *are* pure words: *as* silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.
5. **Ps 119:89** For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.
6. **Isa 40:8** The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.
7. **Mt 24:35** Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

### B. **Believers - Let us Follow the Pattern of Our Master – vs 16**

**16** And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day,

1. Child of God it is your duty to regularly attend the public worship
2. At the appointed times, the Lord Jesus was found in the house of God, worshipping with the people of God
  - a) Notice that He never entertained the false notion that you can worship God in nature as well as in the appointed place.
  - b) Jesus did not agree with all that went on in the synagogue but He went anyway.
  - c) Jesus could have made the argument that He did not need the instruction of the synagogue, He attended anyway
3. You and I need to follow the example of the Savior  
**Heb 10:23** Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;) **24** And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: **25** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

### C. **Lost Person – Don't Reject Jesus Today – vs 22**

**22** And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

1. These rejectors were those of His own city
  - a) You might expect fellow townsmen to show more kindness
  - b) Maybe from childhood you attended church services, you sang the songs, bowed your head during the praying, carried a Bible – but you are lost

2. These rejectors knew the most about Jesus
  - a) *They knew His mother and other relatives*
  - b) *Maybe they knew the story of His birth and the trip to Egypt*
  - c) *They knew Jesus' life in Nazareth*
  - d) *Maybe someone here knows all about the life of Jesus*
  - e) *You know the doctrines, the plan of salvation*
  - f) *You can discuss gospel truths*
  - g) *But you have never trusted Christ as your Savior*
  
3. Jesus said that he came to preach the gospel to the poor
  - a) *These rejectors perhaps said within themselves "I'm not poor" – "I'm the ruler of this synagogue"*
  - b) *"I've kept the law faithfully"*
  - c) *"I've worn my phylacteries, I've made wide the border of my garment"*
  - d) *"I've washed my hands before eating, I've strained gnats from my wine"*
  - e) *"I've kept all the required feasts, I've made the prayers, I've tithed of everything I own."*
  - f) *But they rejected Christ*
  - g) *Maybe this morning you're saying, "I'm ok. I'm doing the best I can, I'm not perfect, but I am a moral person."*
  - h) *You don't realize that you are poor in spirit*
  
4. Jesus said that He was sent to heal the broken hearted
  - a) *The proud Jews were not broken hearted over any sin*
  - b) *They thought they were ok – "We have no need of repentance"*
  - c) *They were sure a whole lot better than the Gentiles*
  - d) *Are you broken hearted over your sinful condition?*
  - e) *You have sinned against a righteous God - offended a holy God*
  - f) *You need to be broken hearted over sin – enough to repent*
  
5. Jesus said that he came to give sight to the blind
  - a) *What an insult – blind – they didn't see themselves as blind*
  - b) *"We don't need our eyes opened"*
  - c) *They knew the law, they were experts in the Torah*
  - d) *Oh, dear lost person, you are spiritually blind*
  - e) *You don't see yourself as a lost, undone sinner – you are blind*
  - f) *"I'm intelligent, enlightened, thoughtful – I'm surely not blind"*

6. Some of the synagogue attenders that day thought that Jesus claimed too much
  - a) *“The Spirit of Jehovah is upon me”*
  - b) *Jesus placed himself side by side with Elijah and Elisha*
  - c) *“Isn’t he the carpenter’s son who grew up here in town?”*
  - d) *Maybe you’re here and think, Jesus asks too much of me*
  - e) *“He must be my Lord”*
  - f) *“He wants to sit on the throne of my heart”*
  - g) *“He must be everything and I must be nothing”*
  - h) *“He must be the Master and I must be the servant”*
  - i) *“The next thing you know He’ll want me to take up my cross and follow Him – I might even have to deny myself”*
7. Trust Jesus as Savior now
  - a) *Every knee bows before the Lord – some now, many later*
  - b) *Admit your spiritual poverty*
  - c) *Admit your spiritual blindness*
  - d) *Admit your spiritual captivity*
8. Have You Trusted Christ as Your Own Personal Savior?

Preached at...

Cochran Creek Missionary Baptist Church – July 2010  
Hillcrest Baptist Church# 101 – Sept 2010  
Addyston Baptist Church Homecoming – Sept 2010

A large prestigious British church had three mission churches under its care. On the first Sunday of each new year all the members of the mission churches would come to that parent church for a combined communion service. In those mission stations, located in the slums of a major city, were some outstanding examples conversions – thieves, burglars, and others. But all knelt at brothers and sisters side by side at the communion rail

During the communion the pastor saw a former burglar kneeling at the rail beside a judge of the Supreme Court of England. It was the very judge who had sent the burglar to jail where he spent seven years. After his release from jail, the burglar had been converted and had become a Christian worker.

After the service, the judge was walking out of the building with the pastor and the judge turned to the pastor and said, “Did you notice who was kneeling beside me at the communion rail this morning?” The two men walked along in silence for a few moments when the judge said, “What a miracle of grace” The pastor nodded in agreement and replied, “A marvelous miracle of grace indeed.” The judge surprised the pastor when he said, “I was not thinking of him, I was thinking of myself.” “You see,” the judge went on, “it is not surprising that the burglar received God’s grace when he left jail. He had nothing but a history of crime behind him, and when he understood that Jesus could be his Savior, he knew that there was salvation and hope and joy for him. He understood how much he needed that help.

But look at me – I was taught from earliest infancy to live as a gentleman, that my word was my bond, that I was to say my prayers, go to church, take communion and so on. I went through Oxford, obtained my degrees, was called to the bar and eventually became a judge. I was sure that I was all I needed to be, though, I too, in fact, was a sinner. Pastor, it was God’s grace that drew me. It was God’s grace that opened my heart to receive Christ. I’m the greater miracle.”