

“A Prophet Is Not Without Honor . . .”

Luke 4:14-44

Introduction (4:14-15):

4:14–9:50 Jesus’ Galilean ministry

This event opens Luke’s description of Christ’s ministry, because he depicts Jesus as God’s Anointed to bring salvation to all people, not just to the Jews.

Nazareth’s setting on a ridge overlooking the Jezreel Valley to the south, the Hill of Moreh to the east where the ridge drops steeply forming a precipice, and Sipporis/Sepphoris to the west. Sipporis is probably where Joseph took Jesus when they pursued carpentry in the building of the beautiful city.

Power (δύναμις) in the Spirit – **Preaching** (διδάσκω) in the Synagogues –
Praise (δοξάζω) arising from all.

I. The Unwelcome Homecoming (4:16-30)—6 miles from Cana (John 2:1)

Parallels?: Mark 6:1-6 and Matthew 13:53-58

Note what the inhabitants of Nazareth thought prior to Jesus’ public ministry (2:52).

Note what the inhabitants of Nazareth had already heard (v. 23).

A. In the Synagogue Service (vv. 16-21)

- Someone else probably had read a prescribed portion from the Law.
- An interpreter (*meturgeman*) had translated it into Aramaic.
- Then Jesus stood to lead the remainder of the service. (Customary to give such an opportunity to visiting rabbis.)
- Jesus was handed the scroll of Isaiah so He could read from the Prophets.
- He read Isaiah 61:1-2 and a phrase from 58:6.
- He rerolled the scroll and handed it to the aide to the head of the synagogue.
- He sat down (as was the custom—cp. the “seat of Moses” at Chorazin) to expound on what He had read.

Luke’s account is probably a brief summary of what Jesus said.

B. After the Synagogue Service (vv. 22-30)

- The people were amazed (v. 22).
- Jesus knows their thinking (v. 23).
- Jesus speaks of both Elijah (1 Kings 17:9-24) and Elisha (2 Kings 5:1-24) who also had met resistance from the Israelites and whom God had sent to Gentiles (vv. 24-27).
- The rage of the people of Nazareth (vv. 28-29)—motivated by envy and thrill-seeking. Their unbelief produced hatred.
- Jesus exercised divine powers to escape from them (v. 30; cf. John 8:59—“Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.”).

II. The Unveiled Hero (4:31-41)

A. Jesus Returns to Capernaum (vv. 31-32)—20 miles from Nazareth

- His personal authority came from God.
- His verbal authority came from the fact that He spoke absolute truth.
- Cf. John 7:46— The officers answered, “Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks.”

B. Jesus Releases the Demoniac (vv. 33-37)

- A demon possessed man interrupts the synagogue service, expressing fear and dismay (vv. 33-34). Jesus does not reason with him; He rebukes him and commands his silence. He healed the demoniac and preserved him from harm as the demon attempted to harm him.
- Jesus came to destroy Satan’s works (1 John 3:8—“ the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.”).
- Demon possession was a tool of Satan in an attempt to destroy Jesus and to discredit His ministry.

C. Jesus Relieves Simon Peter’s Mother-in-Law (vv. 38-41)

- Peter was married (1 Corinthians 9:5—“Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?”).
- Luke the physician describes the illness of Peter’s mother-in-law—he uses a technical term not employed by either Mark or Matthew.

Gospel of Luke	Luke 4:14-44
Son of the Most High (1:32, Gabriel’s announcement to Mary)	The Anointed of God (at Nazareth, v. 18)
Holy child (1:35)	The Power of God (in His escape from Nazareth, v. 30)
Son of God (1:35 and at His baptism, 3:)	The Holy One of God (v. 34)
Savior (2:11, angels at His birth)	The Conqueror of demons (at Capernaum, v. 35)
Christ the Lord (2:11) and the Lord’s Christ (2:26, Simeon at circumcision)	The Healer of physical diseases (at Capernaum, v. 39)
Conqueror of Satan (in his temptation, 4:1-13)	The Son of God (v. 41a)
	The Christ (v. 41b; cf. v. 18)

Conclusion (4:42-44)

Pursuit – Preaching (the emphasis of Jesus’ ministry)