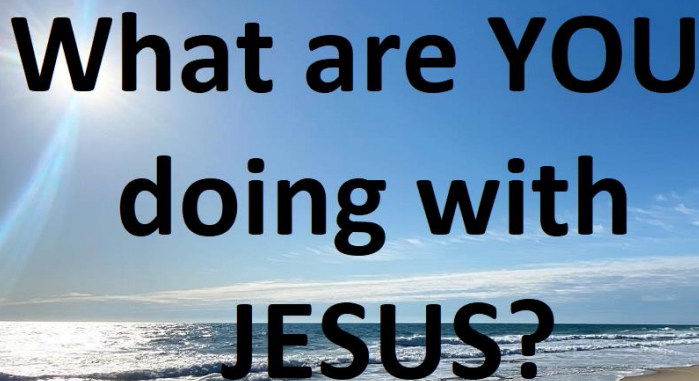


Third Sunday After the Epiphany – 2022
Saturday, 1/22 at 4:00 | Sunday, 1/23 at 9:00



What are YOU doing with JESUS?

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Text: Luke 4:16-30 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: **What are YOU doing with JESUS?** ... In other words: How is JESUS making a difference in every aspect of your life regarding ☞ what you believe, ☞ what is important to you, ☞ how you interact with others, ☞ how you use your time, abilities, and money, and ☞ what you do with the Bible, praying, and caring about the spiritual needs of others?

I challenge you to write down your answers, then see how they reveal what you are doing (or not doing) with JESUS!

In today's sermon, from **Luke chapter 4**, let's see how the people of Jesus' hometown reacted to Jesus when He **made** a very significant reveal and **boldly** told them the truth!

When Jesus began His ministry, *He moved from Nazareth to Capernaum*; then, about a year later – *after developing a reputation as a miracle worker*, He made a visit to Nazareth.

1. **The Grand Reveal:** *(Think of a couple revealing the gender of their unborn baby!)* ¹⁶ **And [Jesus]** *[now living in Capernaum (Mt. 4:13)]* **came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read.** ¹⁷ **And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place [in chapter 61] where it was written,** ¹⁸ **“THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME** *[John 1:33],* **BECAUSE HE** *[God the Father]* **ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE** *[spiritually]* **POOR** *[Mt. 5:3]. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE* *[spiritual]* **CAPTIVES** *[through forgiveness of their sins], AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE* *[spiritually]* **BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED** *[overwhelmed with trouble],* ¹⁹ **TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD** *[as His plans to save the world were being carried out by Jesus].”* ²⁰ **And He closed the book, 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.”** // Jesus read an important Messianic prophecy; then He basically said, **“I AM THE PROMISED MESSIAH!”**

2. **The Response of Unbelief:** ²² **And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, “Is this not Joseph’s son?”**

- a. Gracious words: The people of Nazareth were impressed with Jesus!
- b. Joseph’s son: **However**, to make the jump from **♣Son of Joseph**, to **♣Promised Messiah** was TOO MUCH for them. *They refused to believe* 😞😞😞!

3. **Don't Expect a Miracle:** Unbelievers want a miracle:
- Three demands for a miracle: ♣ When the scribes and Pharisees asked for a sign ([Mt. 12:38-39](#)); ♣ when Jesus was on trial before Herod ([Luke 23:8](#)); and ♣ when Jesus was nailed to His cross ([Mark 15:29-30](#)).
 - In Nazareth: Jesus, aware of ♣ *their unbelief* and ♣ *their expectations*,²³ ...said to them, “**No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me, ‘Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done at Capernaum, do here [in Nazareth] in your hometown as well.’**”²⁴ And He said, “**Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown.** // *Familiarity breeds contempt!* They thought they knew Jesus well, so, they ♣ did not believe His claim and, *in their hearts*, ♣ were demanding a sign!
4. **Two Examples:** The people of Nazareth believed they were **entitled** to miracles, so *Jesus reminded them about two OT accounts to show they were NOT entitled:*
- Widows:²⁵ “**But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months [no rain], when a great famine came over all the land;**²⁶ and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, *in the land of Sidon*, to a woman who was a widow. // You can read the full account in **1 Kings 17:9-16**. Imagine no rain for 3 ½ years; *everything was dry and dead*. Even though many Jewish widows needed help, *God only helped a Gentile in Baal country!*
 - Lepers:²⁷ “**And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.**” // You can

read the full account in **2 Kings 5:1-14**. Again, God did not help the Jewish lepers, *only a Gentile leper!*

5. **Total Rejection:** ²⁸ **And all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things;** ²⁹ **and they got up and drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff.** ³⁰ **But passing through their midst, He went His way.** // In the end, the people were determined to murder Jesus, *but He miraculously walked through their midst* – to show them His power and call them to repentance!

Conclusion: What did the people of Nazareth do with Jesus?
They rejected Him and tried to murder Him! What about us?
Which of these two options is the truth of your heart?

+ **HOT for Jesus** – all in, dead serious, putting Him first!

+ **LUKEWARM for Jesus** – half in, uncommitted, putting Him in a place that fits into my current lifestyle!

- **Truth** – Jesus is the Promised Messiah!
- **Relevance** – Jesus is the only way to heaven!
- **Inspiration** – As Jesus loved, lived for, and died for those of Nazareth, *so He has done the same for us and for all!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Lord Jesus, because of who You are and what You have done, You are worthy of our love, our trust, our time, our efforts, our all; *may our FULL COMMITMENT TO YOU show in every aspect of our lives!*

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