

A Powerful Sermon

Introduction. It was asked, "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46). Jesus was the perfect, sinless Son of Man. Everything that He did was perfect and good. He was the perfect teacher and preacher. Although we all have our own idea about the perfect preacher here on earth, the fact is that all men are helpless and worthless when compared with the perfection of Christ (Psalm 22:6). However, if we will imitate the manner in which our Lord taught and preached, we will be following the perfect example.

We will examine a very powerful sermon in Luke 4:14-30 and see how our Lord preached and taught His Father's will. If we do the same, we can be assured of God's acceptance.

I. *The Preacher*

- A. Jesus had gone out of Galilee, as had others, to the baptism of John, but the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Him at His baptism and the assault of the devil in the wilderness had brought a marvelous change in His public character. His fame increased in all the region.
- B. Although other events had occurred in His life, this episode marked the beginning of His public ministry. He was ready to proclaim the start of something wonderful.

II. *The Place*

- A. Jesus began at home. Later in His ministry, Jesus, in the country of the Gadarenes, told the people, "Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee" (Mark 5:19).
- B. The first example of piety is to be shown at home (1 Timothy 5:4; 1 Peter 3:1-2). But sadly, the home field of work is often the most barren (John 7:5). Nevertheless, His faithful testimony and working of miracles led many to say, "Whence hath this man this wisdom and these mighty works?" (Matthew 13:54).

III. *The Text*

- A. In the synagogue, books were kept on rolls and not in a single bound volume such as we have today. The synagogue also planned on reading through the law and the prophets in a year. It was also common to ask different men to participate in the synagogue services.
- B. The reading was taken from Isaiah 61:1-2. The Lord was presenting to them the prophetic counterpart of what was taking place that day. As the Lord had received the anointing of the Holy Spirit to set Him apart to His task, so He now declares it to them (Luke 3:22-23; Acts 10:38).

The Lord never came to destroy ("abolish," "dissolve") the law and the prophets, but to fulfill them (Matthew 5:17-20).

IV. ***The Sermon***

- A. The Lord began with the application of fulfilled scripture. This scripture was a fountain of living waters for in its streams of blessings began to flow from the anointed One to the poor, the brokenhearted, the captives, the blind, and the bruised (Zechariah 14:8; John 7:38). This was a sermon suited to the needs of all. The Lord preached what they really needed; not what they felt they needed, as is so common today.
- B. It is interesting to note that Jesus did not plead for their favor or forbearance, but boldly declared that "No prophet is accepted in his own country" (vs. 24; cf. Deuteronomy 18:18). No one should ever preach to please men (2 Corinthians 12:19; Galatians 1:10). Sometimes the best outcome for hearers of the gospel is for them to be offended.
- C. The Lord's reference to the Sidonian widow and the Syrian leper magnified the grace of God and cut to the roots of their Pharisaical pride (vss. 25-27). This foreshadowed the events that would occur in Acts 10, with the spreading of the gospel to the Gentiles.

V. ***The Results***

- A. Because of the Lord's bold proclamation, there were definite results.
 - 1. They wondered.
 - a) According to the "Servant song" of Isaiah 50:4-9, the tongue of the Master knows how to speak a word in season to him that is weary. The wisdom that comes from above is always powerful and practical (James 3:17).
 - b) The word of God is also a word of grace which is able to build us up and give us an inheritance (Acts 20:32). However, it must be forcefully preached and taught (2 Timothy 4:2).
 - 2. They were filled with wrath.
 - a) Their wonder turned into hate when the searchlight of truth was turned on their hearts. These synagogue hearers, like many modern hearers, were pleased to hear beautiful words of grace as long as their own sins could remain hidden and untouched, or as long as their beloved doctrines were not being attacked.
 - b) Not only did Christ bring grace, but He also brought truth (John 1:17). It is the truth to which they reacted so violently.
 - 3. They cast Him out.
 - a) Sometimes, there is a fine line between a man's admiration and disgust. Those who sacrifice the truth of God for the sake of their

own selfish ends demonstrate that they are animated by the grossest form of wickedness.

- b) Perhaps the deepest irony in the entire story is the fact of God's rich grace. Here are men ready to throw out the Savior while He promised that all who would come to Him would not be cast out (John 6:37).
- 4. They failed to hinder Him.
 - a) Christ went His way, not the way of sin-filled men. He could have apologized or compromised the truth, but did not.
 - b) What a wonderful example. Christ lived His own precept in Matthew 10:28. He was not intimidated by hatred or violence.
- B. Sin-blinded man may thrust Christ out of his life, but His eternal purpose will still march on (Galatians 6:7-8).

Conclusion. Will you cast the Savior out today? Every time an invitation is offered and you do not accept, you are casting Him out of your life for another day (Hebrews 10:29). One day, we will run out of days (Psalm 144:4). The Lord is ready to open your eyes and set you free from the grip of sin and bondage. Now is your acceptable time. Obey and be saved.