

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



A SHOCKING RESPONSE TO GRACE // AUGUST 2, 2020

This week, Bill Search, led us through Luke 4 where Jesus taught in a synagogue, both good news and news that wasn't received very well by his audience. First of all, Jesus declared who he was and what his mission was. That sounded like good news for everyone.

Then he continued with a second part of the sermon that was a bit convicting and created some grumbling within his followers. So much so that they wanted to kill him! Bill asked some critical questions that we should consider: How would we react if we were there? And, what would change if we reacted with a humble heart?

Luke 4:14-30

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. ¹⁶He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

*¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

²⁰Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

²³Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself!' And you will tell me, 'Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.' ²⁴"Truly I tell you," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. ³⁰But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION

1. Read verses 14-22. What was the message Jesus was proclaiming?
2. Who was this message of good news for?
3. Read the rest of the passage. As Bill Search explained, Jesus was introducing the idea that other people, despised people (in this case the Romans), were going to be included in this good news. Why would this offend them?
4. Have you ever found yourself resenting the fact that someone else has received the same fortune you have, even though they "don't deserve it"?
5. How does it make you feel when other people who you don't agree with, or don't like, are offered the same grace as you? Does humility play a role in your thought process? How so?
6. How can we pray for each other?

PRAYER

Thank Jesus for the grace he has extended to you, and to others, completely undeserved and unearned. Ask God to solidify the understanding of grace—undeserved mercy and unearned forgiveness, and for him to humble you to the point of knowing no one deserves the sacrifice Jesus made—including you.