

Luke's Gospel: Son of Man, Seeker of Men.

Part 6: Dealing with Discouragement

Today's Big Question: How do you move beyond coping to a place of hoping?

Luke 4:14-30 (NKJV); Jesus Begins His Galilean Ministry

¹⁴ Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. ¹⁵ And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

¹⁶ So 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 to read. ¹⁷ And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. 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 has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to *the* poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to *the* captives
And recovery of sight to *the* blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

²⁰ Then He closed the book, and gave *it* back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. ²¹ And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." ²² So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?"

²³ He said to them, "You will surely say this proverb to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in Your country.'" ²⁴ Then He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country. ²⁵ But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven

was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land; ²⁶ but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, *in the region* of Sidon, to a woman *who was* a widow. ²⁷ And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian."

²⁸ So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, ²⁹ and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. ³⁰ Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way.

Dealing with Discouragement. 5 principles to help you turn discouragement into direction:

1. You will need God's _____ to accomplish God's _____ (v. 14-15).

- You will need the power of the Holy Spirit when you are in a battle.
- Jesus' ministry exploded with growth following His time of preparation:

5 Highlights of Jesus' life up to this point of His public ministry debut:

30---Years of preparation for ministry

Public Commitment-Baptism with God's verbal approval

Empowered-Filled with the Holy Spirit

Dedication-Fasted for 40 Days

Victory over sin-Overcame a season of temptation in the wilderness

2. God's work is to present the Good News to _____ (v. 16-21).

- Notice that Jesus practiced good habits: His custom was to go to the synagogue on the Sabbath.
- Notice Luke's opening words to describe Jesus' ministry.

Scripture Insight: [4:19](#) *the year of the Lord's favor*. Not a calendar year, but the period when salvation would be proclaimed—the Messianic age. This quotation from [Isa 61:1-2](#) alludes to the Year of Jubilee ([Lev 25:8-55](#)), when once every 50 years slaves were freed, debts were canceled and ancestral property was returned to the original family. Isaiah predicted primarily the liberation of Israel from the future Babylonian exile, but Jesus proclaimed liberation from sin and all its consequences.¹

- God's Spirit is upon Me.
- I am anointed and appointed for a special calling:
 - The P_____ Ministry:
 - To give good news (Gospel) to the poor.
 - To proclaim freedom to the captives.
 - To proclaim God's favor—the year of Jubilee!
 - The R_____ Ministry:
 - To heal the brokenhearted.
 - To give sight to the blind.
 - To set free the oppressed
- What was Jesus' mission?
- What is our mission at Arden First Baptist?

Scripture Insight: [4:19](#) *the acceptable year of the Lord*. Or, "the year of the Lord's favor." The passage Christ read was [Is. 61:1, 2](#). He stopped in the middle of [v. 2](#). The rest of the verse prophesies judgment in the day of God's vengeance. Since that part of the verse pertains to the second advent, He did not read it.²

3. Not everyone will _____ what you _____ (v. 22-27).

- Not everyone will celebrate you—everyone didn't celebrate Jesus and He was perfect! --Is this not Joseph's son?
- God shows grace to the most unexpected people:
 - i. The widow of Zarephath
 - ii. Naaman the Syrian

¹ Quote from NIV Study Bible.

² Quote from John MacArthur Study Bible.

4. What you elevate others will try to _____ (v. 28-29).

- Jesus had just given a message of hope—
- They tried to throw the Author of Life off a cliff!

Scripture Insight: 4:29 throw him off the cliff. Nazareth is on a hill. Jewish custom suggested hurling a person from a cliff before stoning him, but it forbade execution without trial and would also forbid it on the Sabbath. Roman law forbade executions without the governor's permission; this group functions like a lynch mob.³

5. God can transform extermination into _____ (v. 30).

- Notice what Jesus didn't do when His enemies came against Him.
- What did Jesus do? The very same thing we should do when we face discouragement...opposition...or disappointment in life:
 - i. Jesus kept moving *forward* even when others were trying to push Him *backwards*.
 - ii. Jesus kept His *mind* on the *mission* even when others were trying to distract and discourage Him.
 - iii. Jesus kept *obeying* the voice of the Heavenly Father even when so many other voices kept telling Him to let up...give up...Jesus kept going up!

Key Insight: When you are following God completely and doing His work, and you encounter an enemy of your destiny, an enemy is often a promotion in disguise!

Take Home Truth: God can turn your discouragement into direction when you keep your focus on the mission!

Action Step: Are you presently discouraged? Talk to a trusted friend who can pray for you and encourage you this week.

Preview for next Sunday: "Jesus has power *over* Darkness & Disease" from Luke 4:31-44.

³ Quote from NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible.