

Jesus' Job Description Luke 4:14-30

Luke 4:14-16 ¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. ¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read.

I. His Job Description

Luke 4:17-21 ¹⁷ 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 preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰ Then 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, ²¹ and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

- He Was Empowered by the Spirit of God
- He Proclaimed the Gospel of God

What do the six statements in v. 18-19 reveal about why Jesus came?

How do you interpret each of these six statements? Who has God sent you to preach to?

II. The Crowd's Reaction

Luke 4:22-30 ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked. ²³ Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself! Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.' ²⁴ I tell you the truth," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ I 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. ²⁶ Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷ And 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." ²⁸ All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹ They 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 down the cliff. ³⁰ But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

- Home-town pride - v.22 - they were "speaking well" of Him
- Rebellious Opposition - v.28 - ultimately they become "furious with rage"

What changed? Why?

III. Following Jesus

- Depend on God for spiritual strength.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 ⁷ Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the

flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!

⁸ *Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. ⁹ And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰ Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.*

What does it mean to be weak but strong?

How has God strengthened you in the ministry?

- Proclaim the gospel faithfully and accurately.

Colossians 4:2-4 ² *Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; ³ praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; ⁴ that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.*

How do people distort the gospel today? What can you do to make it clear and that people understand it accurately?

- Care more about what God thinks and less about what other people think.

Galatians 1:10 *For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.*

Are you a people-pleaser?

In what ways do you look for the approval of men rather than the approval of God?

- Live freely, focusing on God's grace

Romans 8:2, 14, 16 ² *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. . . . For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. . . . The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.*

In what ways has God set you free?

Are you living in freedom or fear?

- Allow God to fulfill His Vision in and through my life.

John 17:4 *I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.*

What is God's purpose and vision for your life? How are you living that out right now?

