

## Good News for the Broken

### Luke 4:14-30

Whereas Matthew and Mark begin their accounts of Jesus' public ministry with a general description of his teaching, Luke goes into detail about one of Jesus' first sermons. Though it seems pretty innocuous at first, Jesus eventually strikes a nerve, and his audience tries to kill him! What exactly did He say that was so explosive? And why does Luke see this sermon as a critically important point in the story of Jesus? We find that in this short story, we see the heart of the mission of Jesus as well as one of the primary offenses to Him and His ministry.

#### *Thinking It Through (agree/disagree, consider/contemplate)*

*"Jesus' mission is directed to the poor in the holistic sense... those who are for any number of reasons relegated to positions outside the boundaries of God's people. Jesus refuses to recognize those socially determined boundaries and asserts instead that these outsiders can now belong to God's family." Joel Green*

*"Left to ourselves we tend immediately to reduce God to manageable terms... We want a God we can in some measure control. We need the feeling of security that comes from knowing what God is like, and what He is like is of course a composite of all the religious pictures we have seen, all the best people we have known or heard about, and all the sublime ideas we have entertained." A.W. Tozer*

*Brokenness is "the attitude of a tamed soul in relationship to its sovereign Creator." Alan Nelson*

#### Working It Out

1. Read Luke 4:14-22. What do you notice? What do you observe about Jesus? About the people?
2. Read the rest, v. 23-30. What do you observe about the people now? What changed? Why do the people react with such anger?
3. In this passage, Jesus clearly identifies His mission. Read v. 18-19 again. What words stand out to you?
4. What are some ways that we try to co-opt Jesus from his mission and give us new marching orders? (for example, believing Jesus' primary job is to make sure we have a comfortable life, or prosper our country economically or politically, etc.)
5. Jesus tells us his target audience in these verses. Do you relate to the words he uses – poor, prisoner, blind, oppressed? Why or why not?
6. Why is a proper understanding of the depth of our brokenness and need indispensable for spiritual growth?

## Prayer Points

- Pray that God would help you and the members of your group grow in poverty of Spirit.
  - Pray that our church would stay aligned with the heart of God and mission of Jesus revealed in this passage.
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