

LUKE - Part 15 - The Sermon that nobody likes

*Luke 4:14-30 (selected verses) 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.*

*²⁴ “Truly I tell you,” he continued, **“no prophet is accepted in his hometown.***

*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 off the cliff. ³⁰ **But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.***

Jesus returns to his hometown of Nazareth in the early part of His ministry, preaching about the year of the Lord’s favour. The initial response is amazement at His gracious words but this amazement is quickly turned to furious anger when the people’s ideas are challenged.

6 points drawn from Jesus’ sermon that nobody liked:

1. **Not every preach is enjoyable.**

We don’t go to church to be entertained. It’s often uncomfortable to follow Jesus.

2. **The preacher’s not always wrong** (give me vs make me)

We all have our preset conditions when it comes to life and church, but for us to journey together those preset conditions need to be adjusted. When we go to church we shouldn’t have the attitude of give me but rather make me Jesus. We go to be transformed as worshipers and disciples of Jesus, and therefore when issues are addressed in our lives, it is us who needs to change not our theology.

3. **Is this Joseph’s son?**

2 Cor 8:9 - For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Jesus changed his standard of living, so that He could empower and enrich others. As disciples of Jesus we don’t always need to go for the highest position but sometimes we need to take the low road, lowering our standard of living so that others can be empowered and enriched.

4. **What’s in it for me?**

Actually it’s not about you, God can work however he wants to. We need to shift our thinking from give me to make me. Church is not here to entertain you, it’s not about the biggest church, the church is here to make you into disciples of Jesus Christ that will change the world whether you are an advocate or a house wife.

5. **Inside out or outside in?** (upside down, downside up)

Jesus tells the stories of the widow of Zarephath and Naaman the leper. Showing that He will send insiders to outsiders, and outsiders to insiders, He will send poor men to rich women, and rich women to poor men, slaves to army generals and prophets to widows. God juxtapositions all types of people young and old, black and white, rich and poor, educated and uneducated all through Luke and all through our lives to show us our need for Jesus.

6. **He will always slip your grip**

Jesus will always slip your grip. Jesus will not fulfil our agendas, He is building his church with his motives, and not at the timing of the crowd but at the timing of the Father.

Our job is to follow His agenda, His job is not to follow ours.

How do you respond when challenged by Jesus?