103. Nazareth Rejects Jesus (Luke 4:14-30)

After going to Jerusalem for a feast, Jesus went back to Galilee. He grew up in Nazareth, but now He moved to Capernaum. Capernaum was a city on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus taught much and did many miracles there. In this Bible story, Jesus went back to Nazareth to visit, but the people don't accept Him.

Luke 4:14-15 Jesus had the power of the Holy Spirit and He went back to Galilee. News about Him spread through all the area. Jesus taught in the Jewish churches and all the people praised Him.

- What did Jesus do with the power of the Holy Spirit?

- What did the people think about Jesus' teaching? What did they do?

Luke 4:16 Jesus went to Nazareth, the same town where He grew up. Jesus did the same as He always did. On the Sabbath (Saturday), He entered the Jewish church and stood up to read.

- Sometimes we act different around different people. Around some people, it is easier for us to act Christian. Around other people, that is more difficult. When Jesus was around different people, did He act different?

Luke 4:17-19 They gave Jesus the book named Isaiah. Jesus opened the book and found the place where this was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, why? Because the Lord anointed me to preach good news to poor people. He sent me to announce captive people are free, the blind will see again, people now crushed will go free, and to announce this is the year of the Lord's favor."

- God anointed Jesus with what?

- Remember your answer above (Luke 4:14), what did Jesus do with the power of the Holy Spirit? Why did Isaiah say the Holy Spirit would be on Jesus? For Jesus to do what?

Luke 4:20-21 Jesus closed the book and gave it to the assistant, then sat down. Everyone in the church watched Him. Jesus said, "Today, you heard this Scripture, this already truly happened."

- How did this Scripture already happen?

Luke 4:22 Everyone said good things about Jesus, and they were amazed because of the wonderful things Jesus said. They asked, "He is Joseph's son, right?"

- How well did the Jews in Nazareth know Jesus?

- The Jews heard that Jesus taught amazing things and did miracles in Capernaum. Now they heard His teachings. How did they react? What did they think about Jesus?

Luke 4:23-24 Jesus said to them, "You will tell Me this saying, 'Doctor, heal yourself! We heard You did things (miracles & teaching) in Capernaum. Do those things here in Your home town.'" Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is welcome in his home town."

- Jesus knew these people in His home town. Did He change His message so it was nice and people would like Him?

- Look at what Jesus said. Did the Jews really want to know more about Jesus, or did they only want to see miracles?

- What did they mean, "Doctor, heal yourself!" What does that mean?

Luke 4:25-27 Jesus said, "I tell you the truth. During Elijah's life, many widows lived in Israel. It didn't rain for 3 years and 6 months, and there was no food to eat. But God did not send Elijah to a widow in Israel. He sent Elijah to a widow in Zarephath, in the land of Sidon. And while Elisha was a prophet, many people in Israel had leprosy. But none of them became healthy and clean. Only Naaman from the country of Syria became healthy and clean."

- God named the Jews His chosen people. Sometimes the Jews thought they were the only people God chose. What did Jesus say? Did God also choose others?

- Does God send prophets, evangelists, missionaries, (and you!) to the people we think He chooses, or does God send us to everyone?

Luke 4:28-30 Everyone in the Jewish church listened to Jesus and they became very angry. They stood up and threw Jesus out of the city. Their city was built on a hill. They took Jesus to the top of the hill to throw Jesus down the cliff. But Jesus walked through them and walked away.

- Did the Jews like what Jesus said?

- Were they able to stop Jesus? Why not?

To Think About: Jesus never changed His message, no matter who He was talking with. How can we, with God's help, always give the same message to the people we know?