

## Luke: Jesus' Rejection

- ✚ **Luke 4:16-21;** Some gifts are hard to receive, because to do so is to admit you have flaws and weaknesses and you need help. There has never been a gift offered that makes you swallow your pride more than the one Jesus offers us.
  - ✚ Jesus dying means that we are so lost, so unable to save ourselves, that nothing less than the death of the Son of God Himself could save us. That means you are not somebody who can pull yourself together and live a moral and good life. That's a pill that's hard to swallow, so hard, in fact, that some are choosing Hell over having to swallow it...sounds ridiculous?
  - ✚ **Luke 4:16-30; No Sabbath ever began so wondrously or ended so badly.**
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### 1. This Sabbath was like Christmas for the Jews.

- ✓ They had been anticipating the coming of the Messiah for almost 2,000 years! All of the sudden, after centuries of anticipation, in the year 28 A.D., He was there! Everything they had been waiting and hoping for was standing there before them.

### 2. Understand Jesus' sermon. He picks out His text, **Isaiah 61:1-2**. Jesus says He's been sent to 4 groups of people; these are spiritual conditions.

#### 1) **Spiritually Poor**, the word used here means abject poverty; the Greek comes from the word "to cringe" or "shrink back."

- ✓ The picture is of a beggar who is so ashamed and humiliated that they cringe with one hand over their face and one hand out. It's the picture of every sinner from God's perspective; to sin is to lose everything spiritually; we are cringing beggars.
- ✓ Are you willing to accept the fact that you are penniless beggar before God? It's what makes physical prosperity such a barrier for spiritual blessings, **Mark 10:25**.

#### 2) **Spiritual Prisoners**, if there's anything that characterizes a sinner who's separated from God, it's the characterization of freedom, or the lack thereof.

- ✓ They think they are free, free boundaries, free from oppressive rules, free from morals, free from thinking they are anything but right in what they do.
  - ✓ Jesus says: **John 8:32-34**.
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### 3) **Spiritually Blind**

- ✓ The Jews saw themselves as a guide to the spiritually blind and a light to those who were in darkness, **Romans 2:19**.
- ✓ Blindness is a consequence of rejecting God. **Romans 1:21**, See, the blindness isn't physical; it's at a much deeper level. Thinking we are free, and our eyes are open, we run from God and His will, and the result is darkness and the love of darkness, **John 3:19-20**.
- ✓ Are you willing to confess that it's the love of the darkness that has gotten you to where you are, that you are spiritually blinded?, **John 8:12/**

#### 4) **Spiritually Overwhelmed and Overburdened** – It's a picture of the burden of sin that is on a person's life who hasn't received God's gift of forgiveness.

- ✓ Jesus accused the religious leadership of the day for making it even worse for the people. **Matthew 23:4**. This is why Jesus says: **Matthew 11:28-30**.
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**3. To drive His point home, Jesus gives two powerful illustrations.**

**1) The Widow of Zarephath,** The Jews hated this story because it pointed out their sin.

- ✓ This widow was a pagan and a Gentile, but her heart was receptive to God unlike the hearts of Jews at that time.

**2) The Leper Naaman,** He was a Syrian, the enemies of Jews; he was commander of the enemy forces, but his heart was humble and willing to admit his need.

- ✓ He humbled himself and like the widow, confessed his need of God and that's when God worked a miracle in His life.

**4. The conclusion is an obvious one.**

- ✓ Everyone is a spiritual beggar; everyone is a prisoner to sin; everyone is in the dark; everyone is oppressed and overburdened. Why isn't everyone saved because we all need saving from these things?

**It's always been the same reason, true for the people of Jesus' hometown synagogue and true for people today, our pride won't let us say we are beggars, blinded, imprisoned, oppressed.**

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