

Reflection Questions: Luke 4:14-30

For the message, "The Gospel According to Jesus" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on February 10, 2019

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to a personal life, your church life, and your city's life.

You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion.

To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to ask God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Luke 4:14-30

14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. **15** And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. **16** And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. **17** And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, **19** to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. **21** And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." **22** And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?"

23 And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Physician, heal yourself." What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well." **24** And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. **25** But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, **26** and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. **27** And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." **28** When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath.

29 And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. **30** But passing through their midst, he went away.

A summary of the message: In this introduction to the public ministry of Jesus, he announces that the long anticipated hope of a coming King was coming true in him. In the ministry of Jesus, the kingdom of God would begin breaking in on this world in liberating ways. Though at first Jesus' hometown crowd loved what they were hearing, then were filled with rage at the implication that the grace of God might pass them by if all they wanted to see from Jesus were some tricks. Though they tried to kill him for blasphemy, they did not succeed, and as far as we know from Luke's gospel, Jesus never returned to his hometown again.

Bottom Line:

- Jesus did not come to start a new religion, but to fulfill an old promise. Jesus is essentially saying, *God's long-awaited kingdom is arriving in and through me.* And we're called to (1) recognize our need, and (2) respond to his message and ministry with allegiant faith.

Key Quotes:

- Phillip Ryken, "Usually the poor get overlooked, but Jesus said the gospel was as much for them as for anyone else. This was not a way of excluding anyone (not even the rich), but of including everyone (even the poor)."
- Tim Mackie, "The phrase 'the poor'...is used many times in the Hebrew Scriptures, and it is some-times translated as 'the afflicted.' The word isn't just talking about someone's financial circumstances. The poor can refer to anyone of low status who lives outside the socially accepted framework. It could refer to those of a different ethnicity or to people with diseases or deformities. It could even refer to someone who was materially wealthy but was a social outcast...."

Let's get started...

- What grabs your attention in this text? How are you challenged, convicted, encouraged, or surprised by this text? What questions or thoughts arise as you reflect on what its saying?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- How does this text help me to understand the good news of Jesus, even if he is controversial?
- Jesus comes announcing Good News (gospel = news / breaking news) of God moving in new and fresh ways in the person and work of Jesus. What does this passage ask you to see about yourself / acknowledge about yourself?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- How does this text help us to understand the kind of church we want MHC to be? In other words, what are the implications for us as a community of faith if we want to be faithful to Jesus and to his ministry?
- What is the cost if we are not transformed by this text? In other words, what is lost if we ignore the message?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- What does this mean for us as we live out our faith in the city? Or, to put it another way, what would it look like if we were to take this passage seriously?
- How does this text help us understand God's mission in our city? How does this text serve as Good News for those outside the faith?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?