

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

January 16, 2019

The Gospel of Luke

Preaching in the Synagogue in Nazareth

Topics – Luke 4; synagogue in Nazareth

Text – Luke 4:14 – 30

Introduction

While it is not an easy task to precisely figure out the chronological order of events in the Gospels, by piecing together the information in the four accounts it is possible to figure out approximately what took place and when in the earthly life of the Lord Jesus. The last passage we looked out in Luke was the temptation of the Lord Jesus Christ. The next event covered by Luke is Jesus' preaching and teaching in the synagogue in Nazareth, Jesus' home town. However, there are some events discussed in Matthew, Mark, and John, which appear to have taken place prior to our subject here in Luke 4:14 – 30. We will just list them here for context sake, but we will not deal with them as our purpose is to examine Luke's unique perspective.

Events that are possibly between Luke 4:13 and 14:

- 1 John the Baptist's testimony regarding Jesus. (John 1:15 – 34)
- 2 Jesus calls John, Andrew, and Peter in Bethabara. (John 1:35 – 42)
- 3 Jesus calls Phillip and Nathanael in Bethsaida. (John 1:43 – 51)
- 4 Jesus' first miracle in Cana of Galilee. (John 2:1 – 11)
- 5 Jesus goes to Capernaum. (John 2:12)
- 6 Jesus' first cleansing of the Temple. (John 2:13 – 25) This is the first Passover that Jesus attended since starting His public ministry.
- 7 Jesus meets with Nicodemus. (John 3:1 – 21)
- 8 Jesus and John's disciples baptize in Judaea and Aenon (John 3:22 – 24)
- 9 John's additional testimony regarding Jesus (John 3:25 – 36)
- 10 John is imprisoned by Herod. (Matthew 4:12; Mark 1:14; Luke 3:19 - 20)
- 11 Jesus speaks to the woman at the well in Sychar. (John 4:1 – 42)
- 12 Jesus returns to Galilee. (Luke 4:14 – 15; John 4:43)
- 13 Jesus heals the nobleman's son in Cana. (John 4:34 – 54)

If these events are all in between vs. 13 and 14, then it represents a significant gap in time.

Verses 14 and 15, speak in a general way of Jesus ministry back in Galilee. You will notice that after the temptation, Jesus ministry in Galilee demonstrated the power of the Holy Spirit of God. Though He was God, Himself, He performed His miracles, and ministered to people in the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was from Galilee, but the people of Galilee who knew Jesus before, would see a different person now.

We will be different, too, when we are filled with the Holy Spirit. We are sealed with the Holy Spirit when we get saved, but we also need to be filled with the Spirit as believers, meaning we are yielded to what the Spirit wants us to do.

I His Custom (v 16)

A We see that Jesus was faithful to the synagogue wherever he went. When he travelled he went to the synagogue.

B We see that Jesus participated in the service.

“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:23-25)

Illustrate – “I can worship God on the golf course”

We are entering into a dangerous time when people are not committing to worshipping and working together within a local church. Internet ministries are in some cases replacing the local church. While, I am a fan of any means of getting out the Word of God, I am not for any of these becoming a replacement for the church.

According to Wiersbe:

A typical synagogue service opened with an invocation for God’s blessing and then the recitation of the traditional Hebrew confession of faith:

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; also 11:13-21).

This was followed by prayer and the prescribed readings from the Law and from the Prophets, with the reader paraphrasing the Hebrew Scriptures in Aramaic.

This was followed by a brief sermon given by one of the men of the congregation or perhaps by a visiting rabbi (see Acts 13:14-16). If a priest was present, the service closed with a benediction. Otherwise, one of the laymen prayed and the meeting was dismissed.¹

II His Cutting Short the Reading (Luke 4:17 – 21)

Look at [Isaiah 61:1 & 2](#)

You will notice that Jesus left off reading at the statement, “and the day of vengeance of our God.” He did this for a reason. You see the things that He quoted from the first part of the verses have to do with His first coming. The part that He left out concerns His second coming. Right now we are still in this period of God’s wonderful mercy and grace. This is still the time of invitation; but the day will come when God’s patience will run out

“Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”
(Psalms 2:8-9)

III His Caution to the People of Nazareth (Luke 4:22 – 27)

He first prophesies that these people will reject him because they will refuse to believe that one of their own is the Messiah. When He is later hanging on the cross, they will say, “Save thyself”. He then cautions the people of Nazareth by citing from 2 Old Testament accounts that they were familiar with. As Jesus spoke to these people, He referred to Old Testament illustrations. He knew the Word of God.

A The Widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:8 – 16)

B The Syrian Leper, Naaman (2 Kings 5:1 – 14)

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Vol. 1, p. 184). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

In both of these cases, the people involved almost missed out on a great blessing because of a lack of faith. Both of the people helped in the Old Testament illustrations were Gentiles. Jesus was alluding to the possibility that if these Jews from Galilee rejected Him, God would open up the gospel to Gentiles. This infuriated the people.

IV His Circumvention (Luke 4:28 – 30)

Jesus will not be taken until it is His time. This was not yet the time. (See John 8:59 & John 10:39)

"Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by." (John 8:59)

"Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand," (John 10:39)

"Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is alway ready. The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil. Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast; for my time is not yet full come." (John 7:6-8)

Christians need to learn this lesson. Nothing can happen to us as we serve in the will of God unless He says it happens. We must depend upon Him and not look at our circumstances.

Jesus was fulfilling a plan, His own plan; and nothing was going to keep Him from fulfilling His destiny. God has a plan for your life, and nothing can stop you from fulfilling God's plan for you, but you.



JESUS' MINISTRY IN GALILEE

- City
- ◉ Jesus' Galilean headquarters
- ← Jesus preaches in synagogue in Nazareth (*Luke 4:16ff*)
- ← Jesus heals a young man in Lower Galilee (*Luke 7:11ff*)
- ← Jesus returns from Jerusalem and heals a child from Cana (*John 4:46ff*)
- Jesus preaches around Caesarea-Philippi (*Matthew 16:13ff*)
- Jesus crosses Sea of Galilee to the country of the Gergesenes (*Luke 8:26ff*)
- Jesus journeys into the regions of Tyre and Sidon (*Matthew 15:21ff*)
- Jesus preaches in the region of the Decapolis (*Mark 7:31ff*)
- Jesus performs wonders near Bethsaida (*Matthew 14:13ff*)

