glimpses of glory

MESSAGE: CHARLIE MENG & SHAWN HOELSCH

MUSIC: KARLI BAILEY, DANIEL BRUNO, <u>Paolo Coronel</u>, & Dan Gillette DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2023

The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth Reveals the Pattern of His Earthly Ministry Luke 4:14-30

Introduction

Review: Jesus in the wilderness

- Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus demonstrates his trust and commitment to God's plan when tempted by Satan in the wilderness.
- Jesus establishes a pattern of perfect obedience and patience, despite it not being the easy or obvious choice.

Jesus' early ministry as seen in John and Matthew: Filled with the Spirit of God, healing the blind and deaf, making the lame walk, the possessed are set free!

Remembering Simeon & Anna: Jesus would be a divider!

Main Points

1. Jesus returns to begin his ministry in Galilee, being glorified by all.

Luke 4:14 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.

2. In his hometown, Jesus announces himself as the Anointed Messiah and identifies what he came to do.

Luke 4:16 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."

Jesus is anointed to:

Preach the Gospel to the Poor	Heal the Broken- hearted	Proclaim Liberty to the Captives	Give Sight to the Blind	Set at Liberty Those who are Oppressed	Proclaim the Year of the Lord's Favor
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3. Following the pattern he established in the wilderness, Jesus explains that God's plan is not what is expected.

Luke 4:22 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."

Elijah (1 Kings 17) - God revealed to a widow from Sidon (oppressor to Israel)

Elisha (2 Kings 5) - God revealed to military officer of Syria (oppressor of Israel)

4. The reaction of those listening foreshadows what the world's response will be to who Jesus is and what He came to do.

Luke 4:28 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.

Jesus' initial declaration (vv. 18-21)

A man of Nazareth - one of their own - would restore Israel and make all things right.

Jesus' secondary implications (vv. 23-27)

- 1. God's plan goes beyond what we would expect to be "best."
- 2. God's plan for redemption (and consequently Jesus' ministry) includes all, not just Israel.

Reflection & Discussion

- In your own walk with Jesus, how would you describe your attitude? Is it one of humble submission or one of selfish expectation? How can pride & self-centeredness cause you to miss out on what Jesus has for you?
- 2. How do you respond when God's plan is not what you expect? In what ways can you shift your response to be the one modeled by Jesus trust and submission to the father's wisdom.

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