

JESUS RETURNS HOME

(Luke 4:14-30)

Homecomings are usually very special events. Often the emotions run high as we anticipate returning to see old faces and the familiar sights. Often these are school homecomings, returning from military service, traveling, or living in distant places. "There's no place like home."

There was a day when Jesus returned to Nazareth, the place He was raised and worked until He was 30 years old. Jesus was in the early days of His public ministry of preaching the Gospel. His fame was well known. (4:14)

One can sense the excitement in Nazareth at His return as "the hometown boy who made good."

Now Jesus will deliver His hometown sermon. Dr. Luke tells of this and the reaction of the crowd.

TWO ACTIONS REMINDING US TO ALWAYS RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD BY BELIEVING IT.

For it is not the voice of man, but God's holy unchangeable Word.

I. God's Word Is Proclaimed By Jesus In His Hometown Sermon.(vv.16-21,23-27)

Here Jesus preaches that He is the Messiah, the Jubilee, and warns of the danger in rejecting Him.

- A. On the Sabbath day, Jesus gathered together with others in the public worship of God.
 - 1. We are told that this was "His custom." (v.16) In doing this, Jesus placed His divine seal of approval on the public worship of God. If any could have "skipped," it was him. Yet, throughout His life, Jesus maintained a regular pattern of public worship.
 - 2. "Weekly worship attendance is the foundation for any life that glorifies God."(Heb 10)
- B. Luke gives us the oldest account of what worship was like in the synagogue. They would begin singing the Psalms. Yet, the center of their worship was the reading of the law and prophets, and then the exposition of what was read.
- C. Jesus knew the Scriptures. He turned the Isaiah 61:1-2...and stood up while reading it. This text promised that the coming Messiah would bring about the ultimate day of Jubilee in providing the only lasting liberty that comes from having one's sins forgiven. (The Cross) Isaiah promised liberation for 4 kinds of people: Each of these speaks to our spiritual condition, not to our mere physical circumstances:
 - 1. "the poor." 2. "the prisoner" 3. "the blind" 4. "the oppressed"
- D. These pointed to the 50th year in Israel, the year of Jubilee, the year of release. What joy. (Lev. 25) This spoke of the day when God would come and save His people. Jesus boldly declares to them, "TODAY this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." (v.21) Wow! Jesus came to bring spiritual deliverance from the power of sin. "Proclaim" used here 3 times.

