

A SAD HOMECOMING

Introduction

- 1) Jesus spent a good deal of time teaching in the region of Galilee (Lk. 4:14-15)
- 2) One of the places Jesus visited was his hometown of Nazareth (v. 16a; 2:39-40, 51-52)
- 3) It was a “homecoming” for Jesus which eventually turned into a sad occasion

I) **Jesus and the Scriptures**

- A) Jesus went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day
 - 1) “As His custom was” – a habitual practice for Jesus, as our worship should be
 - 2) The synagogue was a place for reading and discussing Scripture
- B) Jesus publicly read the Scriptures
 - 1) Jesus treated the Scriptures with respect and authority (stood to read, sat to teach)
 - 2) Read from Isaiah (61:1-2a); knew the Scripture and called attention to the text
- C) Jesus made application of the text of Scripture
 - 1) This Messiah/Prophet/Servant prophecy had been fulfilled in Jesus
 - a) “Fulfilled” – *perfect tense* in Greek = a present state resultant upon a past action
 - 2) Jesus understood His role and mission – revealed it to others through the Scriptures
 - a) Compare Luke 24:27; Acts 17:2-3

II) **People’s Initial Reaction to Jesus**

- A) Marveled (astonishment) at His words – gracious words (words of truth) (Lk. 4:22)
- B) Confused and offended because of their familiarity with Him and His family (Mk. 6:3)
 - 1) “Familiarity breeds contempt” (cf. Jn. 7:5)
- C) Unbelief and lack of interest (Mk. 6:5-6; Matt. 13:58)
 - 1) Jesus knew of their jealous doubts (Lk. 4:23)
 - 2) Those closest to greatness are least able to appreciate it, or take it seriously (Lk. 4:24)

III) **Jesus’ Rebuke of their Unbelief**

- A) Compares them to unbelieving in Israel in the time of Elijah and Elisha (Lk. 4:25-27)
 - 1) God did not find faith in Israel, but among Gentiles (widow and Naaman)
 - a) A preview of divine salvation extending beyond physical Israel to Gentile nations
 - b) Salvation was not exclusive to the Jews (Rom. 1:16)
 - 2) God’s own people can show unbelief and doubt in the face of truth (cf. Lk. 18:8; 2 Tim. 4:3-4)

IV) **Neighbors Filled with Wrath**

- A) They were filled with wrath, rage – they understood the message, but rejected it
 - 1) Reaction to truth depends on the state of the heart – soft or hard (Acts 2:37; 7:54)
- B) Led Jesus out of the city to throw him down over a cliff (Lk. 4:28-29)
 - 1) A rejection of truth, Jesus, and the kingdom of God – tragic decision (Lk. 10:13-16)
- C) Sometimes those who know us best will be the most offended at the truth, reject it with the most passion, and turn against us with intense anger – don’t be surprised at this! (Matt. 10:21, 35-36)
- D) Jesus escaped from their hands (Lk. 4:30); He would lay down His own life for them

Conclusion

The experience at Nazareth is a microcosm of the teaching, rejection, and death of Jesus. His own people rejected Him, and the gospel message of salvation then spread to all men. He is our Savior today and our only hope of eternal life with God. Obey Him before it is too late, and make your heavenly homecoming a happy one!