

## “A Scroll, a Synagogue, and a Sabbath”

### Luke 4:14-21

Dec. 5, 2021

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  - Luke omits about a year between vs. 13 & 14. Again he is not concerned about chronology as he is about logically presenting the life of Christ.
  - In that gap you can put John 2-5.
  - First 8 months Jesus lets John “prepare the way” and announce who Jesus is - “the Lamb of God.”
  - Jesus ministers for about 1½ years in Galilee. Luke 4:14 – 9:50.
  - Area of Galilee – about 240 towns and villages. 50 miles from north to south, and 25 miles from east to west. 3,000,000 + population. The great roads of the world passed through Galilee.
- “news” – φημη - fame. Word was getting around.

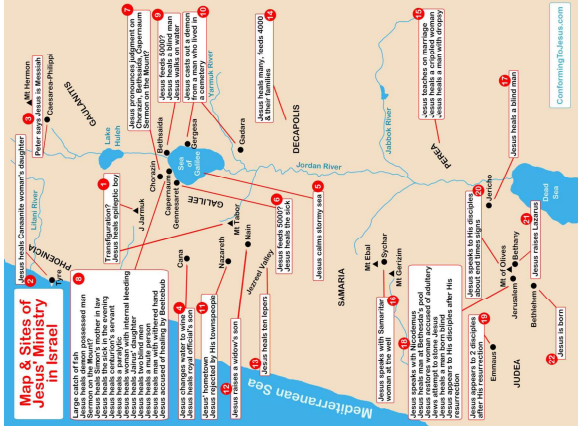
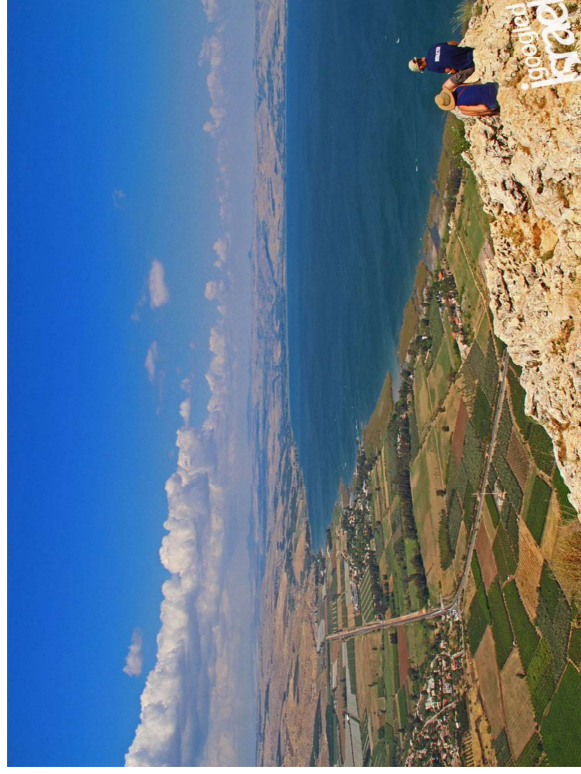
Baptism	Mt 3:13-17+	Mk 1:9-11+	Lk 3:21-22+
Temptation	Mt 4:1-11+	Mk 1:12-13+	Lk 4:1-13+
Jesus' Early Judean Ministry Year of Obscurity TIME GAP	Only described in John 1:19-4:54 No Record in Synoptic Gospels		
Jesus Begins Ministry in Galilee	Mt 4:12+	Mk 1:14+	Lk 4:14+

## Some of the things that happened during the gap:

- Jesus met Andrew, John, James, and Peter.
- Jesus went up to Jerusalem for His first Passover with His disciples.
- Jesus cleansed the Temple the first time.
- His first miracle would take place in Cana of Galilee when He turned water into wine at a wedding feast.
- Jesus had a conversation with Nicodemus about the New Birth.

*"During this period, the Lord performed His first signs and miracles and gave some of His earliest teaching. He traveled between Galilee and Judea. The miracles were performed mostly in Galilee, and the teaching was given primarily in Judea.*

- John Phillips



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## 15 And He began teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all.

### 3 important words in this verse:

#### 1. Teaching.

- Notice it is not preaching, not heralding. Preaching is a broad one-time proclamation.
- Teaching is didactics – line upon line, precept upon precept. It is an academic, systematic approach to the imparting of truth.
- It is concerned with content.
- The goal is to impart, to explain the truth so that people understand. We lack it in the pulpits today.



“There can never be any effective substitute for preaching in the power of the Holy Spirit. When the Church loses this dynamic; when the services become glorified entertainments; when the message is secondary in importance to other superficial things, the Church is on the road to suicide.”

- Ivor Powell

## 2. Synagogue

- Came into being after Babylonian captivity for the purpose of providing a place for Jews to meet that were scattered after the Temple was destroyed. Called “houses of instruction.”
- Any town with at least ten Jewish families could have a synagogue.
- The synagogue was administered by one leader and an assistant. Often the leader would invite a visiting rabbi to read from the Scriptures and to teach. Jesus would be an excellent choice.
- Synagogues were attended by both men and women, as well as by God-fearing Gentiles who were committed to learning more about the God of the Jews.
- There were bench seats along the outside of the room for the wealthy people, and the rest would sit on mats on the floor.
- In the front by the entrance was a cabinet where the scrolls would be kept. When the Scriptures were read, everyone would stand.
- On the other side of the entrance was the “Moses seat”, where the teacher would sit while teaching.

### • Order of service:

1. The reading from the Law took precedence in the first part of the service. At least seven men would read, each no less than three verses. Stood to read, sat to teach.
2. Prayers were given in between the readings.
3. Next was a reading from the Prophets. He would read no less than twenty-one verses.
4. He would then sit down and explain what he had read.

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- It is concerned with content.
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- Greek forums were the opposite – purpose was to toss around ideas or opinions.
- Jesus was a Bible teacher. He was a master teacher.

#### Matt 7:28-29

- 28 When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching;
- 29 for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

#### 3. Praised.

- Jesus was being admired and praised by all.
- His insights, His depth of teaching, His ability to explain difficult passages, complex truths and doctrines drew people to listen to Him.

## 16 And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read.

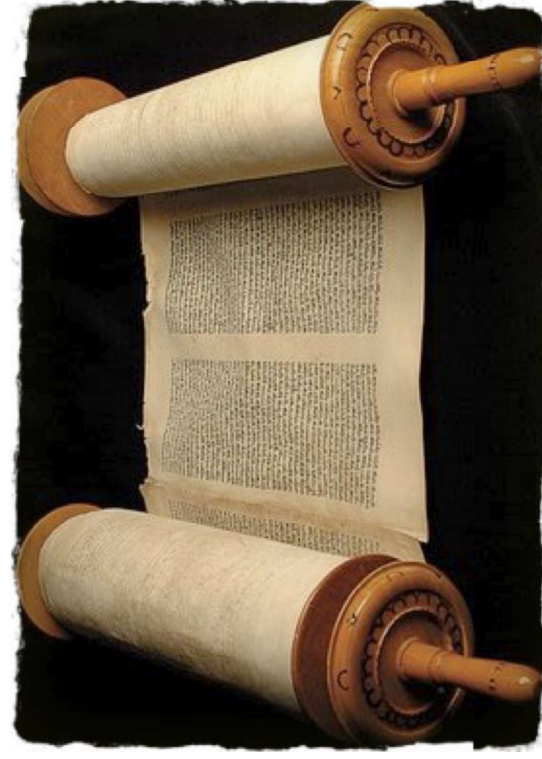
- Jesus comes to His hometown. Maybe 400-500. A nowhere city out in the middle of nowhere.
  - Can you imagine the memories He had of the people, the events, His work as a carpenter?
  - Jesus had spent 30 years of His life here – what a flood of memories must have come over Him.
  - For those 30 years He had developed the habit of being in the synagogue on the Sabbath.
  - So what's His custom? It's to be in the Lord's house every week.
  - If Jesus needs to be in the Lord's house, what does that say about us?
- “He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath . . .”**
- The people at this synagogue knew Him.
  - They had watched Him grow up since He was just a little boy running around the streets of Nazareth.
  - He had gone away for some time and become famous. And now He has returned home.

### “and stood up to read”

- And now here He is in His own hometown, in a synagogue He had attended his whole life.
- His mother, siblings, friends, relatives, merchants, rabbis, etc. were all there.
- He has been invited by the chief of the ten leading elders to read and teach and so He stands to read a portion of the scroll handed to him.
- First time He reads in this synagogue.

### 17 *And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written,*

- Jesus is handed a scroll from the ark. It is the scroll of Isaiah. Coincidence? Luck? I don't think so.
- “book” – βιβλιον - long scrolls of vellum or parchment. Isaiah would have been in 1 scroll.
- Jesus would be able to choose what passage was read.
- Would have had a large table to roll it out on.



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### 17 *And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written,*

- Jesus is handed a scroll from the ark. It is the scroll of Isaiah. May have been the scroll they were reading for that time of year. Coincidence? Luck? I don't think so.
- “book” – βιβλιον - long scrolls of vellum or parchment. Isaiah would have been in 1 scroll.
- Jesus would be able to choose what passage was read.
- Would have had a large table to roll it out on.
- Jesus chose the passage. This is precisely where He wanted to go – Isaiah 61:1-2A

## Isa 61:1-22

- 1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, Because the Lord has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners; 2 To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord *And the day of vengeance of our God;* *To comfort all who mourn,*
  - 5 observations about this text of Scripture:**
    1. This is a Messianic passage.
    2. This defines when the Messiah comes what His ministry will involve.
    3. Jesus should have read 21 verses – He reads 1 ½.
    4. Why doesn't He finish the end of verse 2?
- John 3:17**  
17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.  
1. That is going to get people's attention.

**18 "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, 19 TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."**

7 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MESSIAH WHEN HE COMES:

1. *The Spirit of the Lord will be upon Him.*
- Luke 3:21:4:1,14** Received the Spirit, filled with the Spirit, empowered by the Spirit.
- He will be anointed.*
- Luke 3:22** - "This is my Son . . ."

## 4. He will proclaim release to the captives.

- Captive to sin, to Satan, to this world's system, to their old sin nature.
- Gal 5:1**
- 1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free;
- **The Messiah will set us free from our prison, from our bondage to sin.**

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These next 4 can be seen on 2 levels – 1. physical level. 2. spiritual level.

### 3. He will preach to the poor.

"poor" - bankrupt, to have absolutely nothing, no resources.

**Matthew 5:3** - "Blessed are the poor in spirit,"  
• every sinner is spiritually bankrupt.

**James 2:5** - "God chose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom."

### Rev 3:17

- 17 'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,
- **The Messiah will bring the good news to those who have nothing to contribute to their salvation.**

"He breaks the power of cancelled sin,

He sets the prisoner free;

His blood can make the foulest clean;

His blood availed for me."

- Charles Wesley

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**Gal 5:1**

- 1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free;
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5. *He will proclaim the recovery of sight to the blind.*

- Mankind is in darkness. Sin blinds. Satan blinds.

**2 Cor 4:3-4**

- 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,  
4 in whose case the god of this world has **blinded** the minds of the unbelieving

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- 17 'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and **blind** and naked,
- **The Messiah will open their "spiritual eyes" to the truth.**

"Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore; Send these, the homeless, tempest tossed, to me: I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

- Statue of Liberty

6. *He will set free the oppressed.*

- These are the afflicted, the abused, the depressed, those who have been trampled on, the despised, those in distress, those in pain, the overwhelmed, the overburdened.
- All caused by living in a sinful, fallen world.
- **The Messiah will come to deliver them from their wretched condition.**

"Jesus came looking for the sick, the maimed, the lame, the bruised, the broken hearted, the wretched wanderer, the poor and forgotten, the prisoner, and the lonely rich." Why? Because they are the most open to the gospel.

7. *He will proclaim "now" is the time for salvation.*

**19 TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."**

**"favorable year of the Lord"** - this is an expression for the year of Jubilee This year was described in the Law as a time every 50 years when all debt was forgiven (Lev. 25:10). In the year of Jubilee slaves were set free, debts cancelled, and things get a new start.

**2 Cor 6:2**

2. Behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION" —

- **The Messiah will proclaim that salvation should not be delayed.**