

“Flashpoint”

Luke 4:20-30

Dec. 12, 2021

Luke 4:14-19

14 And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district.

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

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.

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,

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,

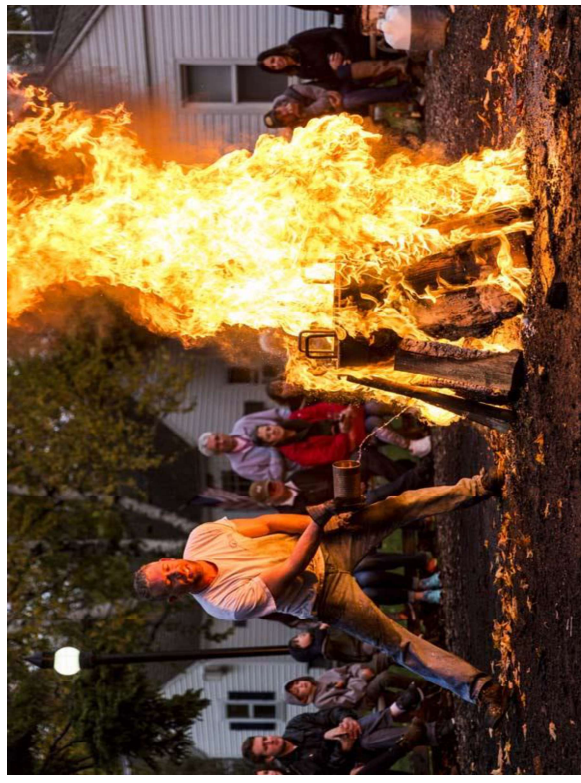
19 TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."

flash-point

/ˈflaʃpɔɪnt/

noun

1. a place, event, or time at which trouble, such as violence or anger, flares up.





20 And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him.

- Jesus closed the scroll. He was finished.

“attendant” – 1. in charge of the furniture in the synagogue. 2. he kept the building in good order. 3. Summoned the people at the right time. 4. he called the name of the one selected to read the text of the day. 5. he handed them the scroll. 6. received it when the reading was finished.

“fixed” – to gaze; to stare.

Staring may occur for several reasons:

1. hostility
2. affection
3. amazement
4. day-dreaming
5. puzzled
6. differences
7. anticipation

It may be some or 2 and 3 but mostly 7.

John 7:46

46 The officers answered, "Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks."

- Jesus certainly has their attention.

21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

- In one sentence Jesus answers the questions the passage presents –who? when?
- Jesus - "You have been waiting 750 years since that prophecy by Isaiah and NOW it is fulfilled."
- "I am the one. I am here right now before your eyes."
- "I will do all of the things listed in this passage."
- "Today, now, right this moment."
- What must they have been thinking at this point?
- What are you thinking at this point? Is Jesus the Messiah?

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23 And He said to them, "No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.'"

24 And He said, "Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown.

25 "But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land;

26 and yet 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 Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian."

28 And all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things;

29 and they got up and drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff.

30 But passing through their midst, He went His way.

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- Everything is positive to this point.
- They are proud of their hometown boy.
- They are making no connection with His Messiahship. Its all horizontal — "Joseph's son." So here is the **rejection** of His Messiahship.
- They are more amazed at His persona (the way He speaks, the way He behaves, etc.) than at the content of what He is saying.

John 4:25-26

- 25 The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us."
- 26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."
- They are expecting a Messiah that is going to save them from Rome.
 - Do they realize Jesus stopped in the middle of a verse and left out the vengeance of the Messiah?
 - He is not coming to free them from Rome but to free them from their sins.

23 And He said to them, "No doubt, you will quote this proverb to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.'"

- Jesus now wants to expose what is in their hearts.
- He hits 3 areas: 1. Miracles. 2. Hometown prophets. 3. Jewish bigotry.

1. Miracles

1 Cor 1:22

- 22 For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom;
- "Physician heal yourself" – only Luke, a doctor, records this.
 - "You did miracles in Capernaum, do them here. Prove to us that you are the Messiah."
 - They had wrong motives.
 - Miracles were only used to confirm a message. Miracles are not the message.
 - Miracles or healing someone has nothing to do with whether someone can forgive sin or save one from eternal Hell.
 - **Think about it:** Jesus practically healed all manner of sickness and disease from the whole land of Israel and they ended up putting Him on a cross.
 - All of the miracle workers in the world and all of their miracles don't prove the gospel or that Jesus is the Messiah.
 - What is important is what Jesus says in His words.

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Deut 13:1-5

- 1 If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder,
- 2 and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,'
- 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the Lord your God is testing you to find out if you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.
- 4 "You shall follow the Lord your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.
- 5 "But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has counseled rebellion against the Lord your God who brought you from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to seduce you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from among you.

24 And He said, "Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown."

2. Hometown Prophets

- Prophets were not welcome in their hometowns because people just don't fully trust one of their own who becomes famous and then returns home.
- "People are always more ready to see greatness in strangers than in those they know well." - Henry Morris
- "Familiarity breeds contempt" – having extensive knowledge of someone leads to loss of respect for them.

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1 Kings 17:8-24

- 8 Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying,
- 9 "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and stay there; behold, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you."
- 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath, and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks; and he called to her and said, "Please get me a little water in a jar, that I may drink."
- 11 As she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a piece of bread in your hand."
- 12 But she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have no bread, only a handful of flour in the bowl and a little oil in the jar; and behold, I am gathering a few sticks that I may go in and prepare for me and my son, that we may eat it and die."
- 13 Then Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go, do as you have said, but make me a little bread cake from it first and bring it out to me, and afterward you may make one for yourself and for your son.
- 14 "For thus says the Lord God of Israel, 'The bowl of flour shall not be exhausted, nor shall the jar of oil be empty, until the day that the Lord sends rain on the face of the earth.'"
- 15 So she went and did according to the word of Elijah, and she and he and her household ate for many days.
- 16 The bowl of flour was not exhausted nor did the jar of oil become empty, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke through Elijah.

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3. Jewish Bigotry

- This now is going to get at the root of their problem that needs to get exposed.
- **"in truth"** – these 2 illustrations are going to come straight from the Old Testament which they were very familiar with.
- One is from Elijah and the other from Elisha. Both were prophets and both served in the northern Kingdom which included the area of Galilee.
- Talk about unwelcomed prophets . . .
- Let's look at the first example, Elijah.

Elijah (850 B.C.) – 1 Kings 17

- Israel is in a state of unbelief. Idolatry – Baal worship – King Ahab and his Baal worshipping Gentile wife, Jezebel.
- God's discipline was no rain for 3½ years.
- Drought = no crops = famine.
- Many widows (war casualties, death from famine, etc.)
- God sends Elijah the prophet, not to the Jewish widows but to a Gentile widow.
- She has nothing. Destitute.
- But this is a widow who believes in the true God.
- **Note:** Need was not the issue (plenty of need in Israel) but belief was (little belief in Israel).
- Elijah asks for some bread and water from her. This is food for her last meal for her and her son, Elijah says God will provide. She believes God. She suddenly has an abundance.
- Her son dies and Elijah raises him to life.
- Application to the Jews: if you reject me, I will go to the Gentiles.
- The pot is starting to boil.

17 Now it came about after these things that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became sick; and his sickness was so severe that there was no breath left in him.

18 So she said to Elijah, "What do I have to do with you, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my iniquity to remembrance and to put my son to death!"

19 He said to her, "Give me your son." Then he took him from her bosom and carried him up to the upper room where he was living, and laid him on his own bed.

20 He called to the Lord and said, "O Lord my God, have You also brought calamity to the widow with whom I am staying, by causing her son to die?"

21 Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and called to the Lord and said, "O Lord my God, I pray You, let this child's life return to him."

22 The Lord heard the voice of Elijah, and the life of the child returned to him and he revived.

23 Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house and gave him to his mother; and Elijah said, "See, your son is alive."

24 Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth."

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- 8 It happened when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent word to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Now let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."
- 9 So Naaman came with his horses and his chariots and stood at the doorway of the house of Elisha.
- 10 Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you and you will be clean."
- 11 But Naaman was furious and went away and said, "Behold, I thought, 'He will surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper.'
- 12 "Are not Abanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.
- 13 Then his servants came near and spoke to him and said, "My father, had the prophet told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"
- 14 So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child and he was clean.
- 15 When he returned to the man of God with all his company, and came and stood before him, he said, "Behold now, I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel;

27 "And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian."

- Same situation: Israel is in unbelief, idolatry – God sends leprosy as judgment on Israel.
- Naaman is commander of the Syrian army in Aram. Enemy of Israel. Hated by Israel. He is a Gentile. On a raid of Israel, he takes a girl captive who tells him he needs to go to Elisha to be cured. He goes, believes Elisha, is cured, and confesses his belief in God.
- The lesson is the same, when the Jews are in rejection of God and in unbelief, God sends His blessing to the Gentiles.
- **Note:** Don't expect the blessing of God when you reject Him.
- So they are thinking, "Jesus, are you saying we are worse than a Gentile widow from Jezebel's hometown? And we are worse than a Syrian Gentile leper? Are you out of your mind? Don't you know who we are? We are the chosen. We are the sons of Abraham. We have the covenants. We have the promises. We have the Law. We have the fathers. We are the people of God. God only cares for us, and no one else."
- God's design was to redeem a people from every ethnic group. Jonah, 144,000 witnesses in Rev. 7.
- The pot is really boiling now and its about ready to boil over, to explode.

2 Kings 5:1-15

- 1 Now Naaman, captain of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man with his master, and highly respected, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man was also a valiant warrior, but he was a leper.
- 2 Now the Arameans had gone out in bands and had taken captive a little girl from the land of Israel; and she waited on Naaman's wife.
- 3 She said to her mistress, "I wish that my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! Then he would cure him of his leprosy."
- 4 Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus spoke the girl who is from the land of Israel."
- 5 Then the king of Aram said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel. He departed and took with him ten talents of silver and six thousand shekels of gold and ten changes of clothes.
- 6 He brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, "And now as this letter comes to you, behold, I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may cure him of his leprosy."
- 7 When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man is sending word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? But consider now, and see how he is seeking a quarrel against me."

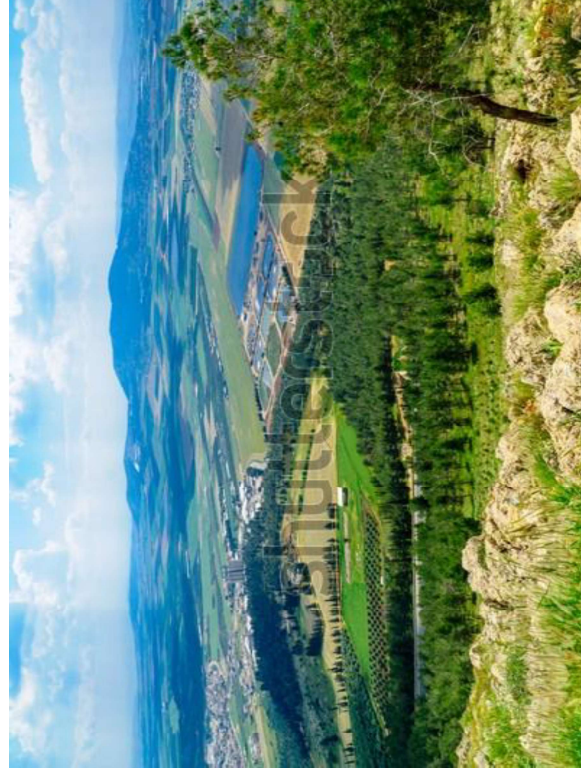
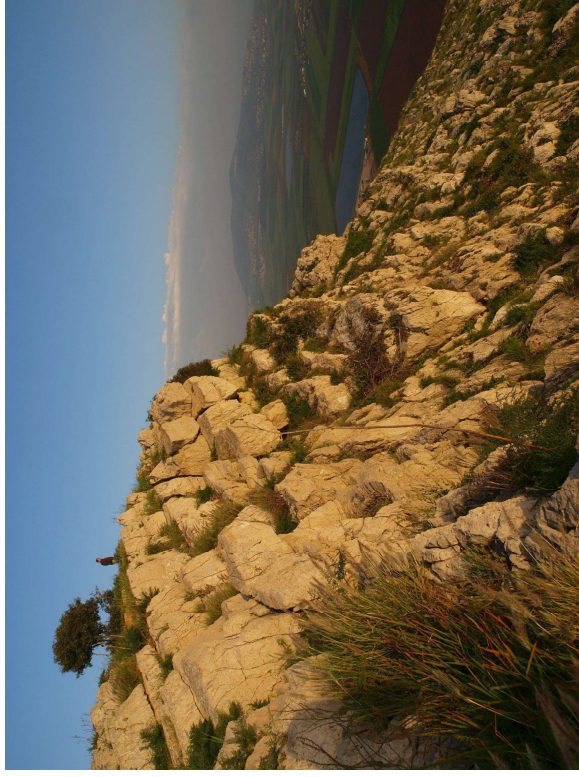
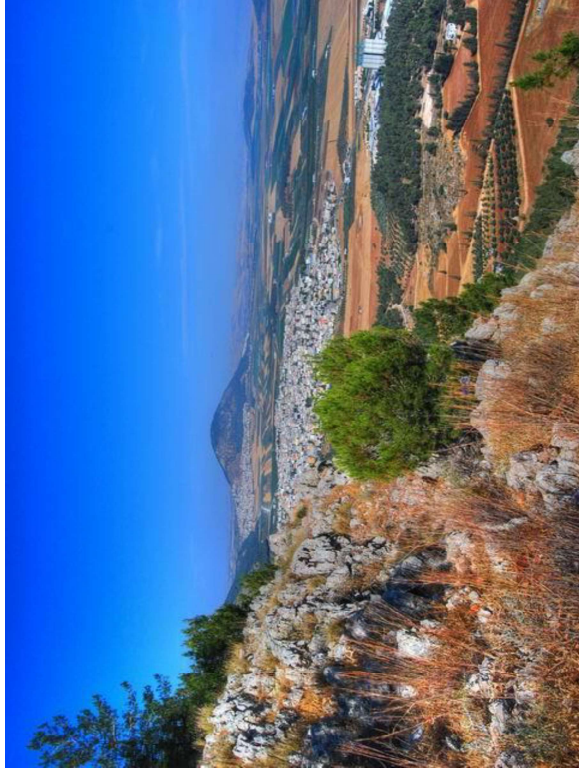
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- They hated these OT accounts so violently because they would not humble themselves. That is what a system of works, a system of self-righteousness will do to you.
- Spiritual pride – there is nothing worse. A false religious system will damn you faster than anything else.
- The most difficult people to save are those who “think they are already saved.”
- 95% of getting a person saved is to get him/her unsaved to begin with.
- Jesus has just said, by quoting Isaiah 61, that He came for the poor, the prisoners, the blind, and the oppressed – Jew or Gentile – whoever will come.
- “If you are so arrogant and proud, then fine, I’ll go to someone else.”
- “If you cannot humble yourself like the Gentile widow and the Gentile Syrian commander, then you are lost in your sin and outside of God’s redeeming provision for the forgiveness of your sin.”
- That was intolerable to the Jew.
- So the whole thing blows up.
- They are filled with rage.
- Pushing someone off a small cliff was often the first step in the process of stoning. Once the victim fell down, they were pelted with rocks until dead.



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- We don't know how this happened. Probably supernaturally.
- This was not Jesus time nor the place, nor the manner for Jesus to give His life for the sins of mankind.

If you please God, it does not matter who you displease.

If you displease God, it does not matter who you please.