

January 3, 2021

“Called to Proclaim”
Lesson 1 of Unit

Luke 4:14 – 22a

Intro

The first three gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) are called “synoptic” because they generally take the same or a similar view to the event being presented. The word “generally” is at work in today’s lesson. It shows an exception. Though all three show Jesus’ baptism, his testing in the desert, and mention the beginning of His ministry, only Luke’s gospel shows us this event: Jesus reading the scroll of Isaiah which is His public announcement of His ministry, and how it fulfills Isaiah’s prophecy. Our text suggests that several months likely passes between Luke 4:13 (the end of His testing) and 4:14, the beginning of His public ministry.

Read Luke 4:14-22a

1. vs. 14a: This is the third time *the Spirit* is mentioned in connection with Jesus. What happened in the first two (Luke 3:22, Luke 4:1)? What do these three occurrences tell us about the importance of *the Spirit* in living Godly lives?
2. vs. 14b-15: The last part of vs. 14 says that “news about him spread” and in vs. 15 that “everyone praised him”. What was the “news” that was spreading? Why were people praising him? (Luke doesn’t say here; what do you think it was?)
3. vs. 16: In vs. 15-16, the verses refer to Jesus teaching in the local synagogues. How might it feel to return and preach in your “home” church? What does vs.16 tell us about Jesus’ attendance at synagogue? Why is this detail important, in telling us about Jesus, and to our lives no
4. vs. 17: What is suggested about Jesus by him being handed the scroll of Isaiah to read? Commentators suggest that the reader could read from the scroll where they chose. What are we being shown by Jesus choosing to read this particular passage?

5. vs. 18: What does it mean to be “anointed” by God? (see I Sam.16:13) Why might God be particularly interested in reaching “the poor”? What other tasks are mentioned in the Isaiah passage Jesus quotes? How do those tasks have both a physical and a spiritual component?

6. vs. 19: What exactly is “the year of the Lord’s favor”? See Leviticus ch.25. How would people likely react to the events described in Leviticus ch.25? What’s the likely reaction of the people to this? How might the accomplishment of the things in vs. 18 produce a similar reaction?

7. vs. 20: What is the reaction from the people when Jesus finished reading?

8. vs. 21: What is the meaning of what Jesus says in this verse?

9. vs. 22a: Based on what we know people say about Jesus, and how He is treated later, how do we account for the people’s positive reaction here?

Application: This passage looks at the beginning of Jesus’ earthly ministry. By the end of it, He has healed the sick and lame, renewed sight to the blind, and brought the dead back to life. These things He did in the physical world to show that He also had power to do it in the spiritual realm. He longs to heal us of our sin sickness, restore and renew our spiritual eyes, and bring us from spiritual death to spiritual life. Today’s lesson serves as a reminder to us of both who Jesus is, and also what He wants to do in our lives if we’ll let Him.

Prayer: Father God, thank You for sending Jesus into the world to pay the price for our sins by dying in our place. Help us to let You speak to us and work in our lives so that we can serve You faithfully. In Jesus’ name, Amen.