

Seeing Jesus: Rejected at Home
Luke 4:14-30
Sermon Outline

Introduction: Jesus is an enigma—a combination of things we are drawn to and things we hate.

I) Jesus was (and is) an enigma

A) Mesmerizing teacher

v. 20: every eye...fixed on him

v. 22: gracious words

B) Winsome message

v. 18: good news...liberty...recovery of sight...Today fulfilled

C) And yet, we push him away

1) The home town crowd

v. 22: Isn't this Joseph's son?

v. 28: filled with wrath

2) Us too

- De-historicizing Jesus
- Avoiding him by staying busy
- Spirituality
- Church

II) Why do we push him away?

A) He makes spirituality too particular

v. 18: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...

B) He decimates our pride

1) The home town crowd

- Jews in a pagan city
- God's grace and anger in the days of Elijah and Elisha

2) Us

- Jesus or nothing
- No quid pro quo
- Misguided sense of entitlement

III) What do we need to do? Welcome the real Jesus

A) Let him be who he actually is

B) Heed the preaching of Christ

Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) Jesus had such a positive message and he was such a brilliant teacher and kind person. Why did the world conspire to kill him? Why do we push him away still?
- 2) The sermon mentions ways in which we try to get rid of Jesus still: (a) by de-historicizing him; (b) by staying so busy with other passions (success, compensation, relationships, controlling outcomes) that we never think about him; (c) by replacing Jesus with spirituality; (d) by replacing Jesus with church. Do you do avoid Jesus in any of these ways? Can you think of other ways?
- 3) What is ironic about the people's response to Jesus in v. 22b? How do we allow the stories about and teaching of Jesus become too familiar?
- 4) Why did the home town crowd try to kill Jesus? As you answer consider the two stories Jesus tells of life during the days of Elijah and Elisha. What did the Sidonian widow and the Syrian commander have in common? What is both good news and disturbing news about God's treatment of those individuals?
- 5) Respond to the following: "Sometimes our sense of entitlement vis a vis God(which is utterly misplaced) is so deeply imbedded that some form of devastation (often spiritual) is the only way that God can expose it, something he does, not because he enjoys doing so, but because he has to."
- 6) How do you tend to edit the real Jesus out of your life?
- 7) Respond to the following: "We all, including preachers, tend to expect too little of preaching. We think of it as a lecture where ideas are passed along rather than an encounter where the life of Jesus is transmitted by the power of his Spirit. God forbid that the preacher should fail to direct his hearers to Christ. And God forbid that the hearers should show up for worship not expecting and unprepared to meet Christ in the preaching."