

THE MISSION & REJECTION OF JESUS

Luke 4:16–30

What is the Story You're Telling Yourself?

Introduction:

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The Further a Society Drifts from the Truth,

the more it will hate those that speak it.” (George Orwell)

1. Our Society is not that different from the 1st Century in the time of Christ...

- a. In the 1st century, the common people had been lied to by the religious and political rulers
- b. They were oppressed by the ruling class... belittled with shame and guilt,

by Condescending Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes, Priests and Rulers

But Even despite this—the common people wanted the truth, they wanted to serve God
So they would either endure the religious condescension or they would be absorbed into
the religious pharisaical spirit of the age...

When Jesus began His sermon on the mount, Blessed are the Poor in Spirit, the Meek,
those who Mourn, Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness, Jesus was
speaking directly to the common people! NOT The Scribes and Pharisees

2. Times Change But Human Nature is Still the Same...

- a. EVEN TODAY There is an Entire Political and Religious Ruling Class Who Want to Oppress and Control the common people with Guilt, Shame...
- b. A New Set of Pharisees, A New Priesthood, A New Secular Self-Focused Dogma, to Amass & Protect Power
- c. But it's Not Based on Truth—it is Based on Power

3. Jesus launched His ministry with a sermon...

- a. A Sermon That Declared the Mission of the Messiah, but also Exposed Some False Beliefs
- b. As a Result—A Sermon that almost got Him killed!

I. THE MISSION OF JESUS (Luke 4:16–21)

A. PREACH THE GOSPEL GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR

1. We live in a broken and corrupt world...

- a) A World Run by Corruption and Worldly Power Paradigms
- b) A World That Destroys Hope and Peace and Love
- c) A World of Despair and Loneliness marked by Sin, Guilt, Shame

2. Jesus said: Blessed are the Poor in Spirit...

Jesus Came to Preach the Good News to the Oppressed!

- a) That God Sent His Son to deliver those in distress in a broken and oppressed world
- b) To Overthrow the Powers of Darkness
- c) and Deliver His People into His Kingdom of Light

B. TO HEAL THE BROKEN HEARTED

1. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted

- a) Jesus came to Heal the Broken Hearted...

- b) those who are crushed by Grief
- c) Injured and Hurt by the Sin of Others
- d) The Depressed, the Hurting, the Bankrupt, the Oppressed

2. Jesus Came to Change the World—and Give Hope

C. TO SET THE CAPTIVES FREE

1. Jesus Has Set the Captives Free!

- a) Free From the Slavery and Condemnation of Sin
- b) Free From the Guilt and Shame Spiral of Sin and Regret
- c) Free from Fear, Anxiety and Worry
- d) Free From the Penalty of Sin
- e) Free from the Slavery of SELF

D. TO GIVE SIGHT TO THE BLIND

1. Jesus gave literal sight to the blind... by miraculously healing the Blind

And Jesus opens our eyes to the Truth!

- a) His Life and Teachings...
- b) His Power over Satan, Sin and Death...
- c) His Paradigm Shattering Resurrection...

2. Opens Our Eyes to the Truth!

- a) And it Blinds Those Who Refuse to See the Truth
- b) Like The Pharisees Didn't Want to See... ([John 9:35–41](#))

3. When we abide in His word, we know the Truth and the Truth sets us free!

E. TO GIVE FREEDOM TO THE OPPRESSED

1. The Hurting, the Afflicted, the Wounded, the Discouraged

- a) Those Who Have Been Afflicted and Defeated by Satan
- b) The Weak and Wounded, the Discouraged and Distressed

2. Just as Mary Praised God When She Realized

- a) God had chosen a young woman from an oppressed people in a poor land!
- b) She would conceive of the Holy Spirit in Fulfillment of Prophecy
- c) to give birth the Messiah, the newborn King! ([Luke 1:46–55](#))

F. TO ANNOUNCE THE FINAL AGE OF THE KINGDOM HAS ARRIVED

1. The Jews Always Looked for a Future Age...

- a) Jesus is telling them it is NOW! Today! It Was Beginning That Very Day!
- b) This is Happening and You Cannot Stop It
- c) Whether You Want it or not! This is Going to Happen!

2. The Final Age is Here Because of Jesus Finished Work at the Cross...

- a) The King is Coronated > The Final Age Has Begun > Jesus Has All Authority!
- b) World Leaders Can't Stop It! — Dictators and Cesars Can't Stop It!
- c) Techno-Billionaires Can't Stop It!—Fake News Can't Stop It!
- d) False Teachers and False Paradigms Can't Stop It!
- e) THIS IS FROM GOD! Jesus now has all authority in heaven and on earth

II. THE REJECTION OF JESUS (Luke 4:22–30)

A. JESUS DID NOT MEET THIER SELF-CENTERED EXPECTATIONS

1. **Nathaniel asked, can anything good come out of Nazareth?**
 - a) Others Looked Down on Nazareth, but here the people of Nazareth are looking Down on Jesus who was from Nazareth!
 - b) But Jesus Knew Their Hearts—He Grew Up in Nazareth!
2. **Jesus had preformed Miracles in Capernaum (v.23)**

But Those in Nazareth Were Offended (Matthew 13:54–58)

- a) Jesus does not meet their self-centered expectations of the Messiah
- b) This will be the Second Time Israel Rejected God as their King

B. GOD'S METHOD TO SAVE DID NOT MEET THIER SELF-CENTERED EXPECTATIONS

1. **There were many lepers & widows in Israel during time of Elijah & Elisha**
 - a) A Time when Israel was marked by Unbelief...Wanting their own way, not God's way
 - b) But God Did help and heal 2 gentiles during this time of unbelief in Israel
2. **In an Identical Way, there was so much Unbelief in Nazareth—
that Jesus did not preform many miracles there! (Matthew 13:57-58)**
 - a) They Got Angry That Jesus Would Tell them the Truth—
 - b) that God Helped Gentiles Who Believed rather than the Jews who Refused to!
3. **The Irony is that By Rejecting God's Way of Salvation (by Grace to those who believe and obey) they were being just like Naaman the Leper!**
 - a) Namaan heard there was a prophet from God who could heal
 - b) He Responded in Faith to Seek the Word of the Lord from the Prophet
 - c) But When Namaan heard the Word He was Offended!
God's Way of Saving DID NOT MEET HIS SELF-CENTERED EXPECTATIONS!
 - d) But after reconsidering that If He Would've been asked to Do Some Great Thing to be healed, — Why Couldn't He Just Humbly OBEY by FAITH?!
 - e) He Was Baptized—Immersed in the Jordon 7x and was healed! (2 Kings 5:10–14)

C. GOD'S KINGDOM AND PLAN FOR THE WORLD DID NOT MEET THIER SELF-CENTERED EXPECTATIONS

1. **God's Plan for the World Was Not the Military Dominance of Israel!**
 - a) The Kingdom of God Would Not Be a Military Industrial Complex..
to make Israel a Super-Power Nation Greater than Rome
2. **After Jesus Fed the 5,000 they tried to Forcibly Make Jesus King!**
 - a) We Finally Found Our King...
 - b) If Jesus can feed 5,000 then He can feed an Army and Overthrow Our Enemy Rome
3. **We Will Follow You God—If You Do What We Want!**
The Kingdom of God was to be a Spiritual Kingdom

- a) That would conquer the hearts and minds of people from every language and nation
- b) Jesus is on His Throne at the Right Hand of God, Not in Jerusalem commanding an army to Take Over the Nations of the World... They are already His! (Rev. 11:15)

III. THE LESSONS FOR US

A. SOME PEOPLE LOVE THE TRUTH WHEN IT SUITS THEM, BUT HATE THE TRUTH WHEN IT CONVICTS THEM

“There are two ways to be fooled. One is to believe what isn't true; the other is to refuse to believe what is true.” — Søren Kierkegaard

1. We Have a Whole New Set of Pharisees in America Today...

- a) A New Woke Priesthood, a New Liberation Theology, A New Religion without God
- b) Self-Righteous Virtue Signaling, that absolves your sins...
as long as you check off all the right check boxes of race and gender ideology...
- c) Which Change Every Week, New Micro-aggressions every week

2. They Built Their Life on a False Paradigm and Now They Have to Force Everything Into the Story They're Telling Themselves!

- a) The Truth Didn't Fit the Story the Pharisees were telling themselves then
- b) And it Doesn't Fit the Story Today's Pharisees are telling themselves now!

B. SELF-CENTERED EXPECTATIONS BLIND US TO THE TRUTH

1. Jesus went to His Own and They Received Him Not

- a) Light shown in Darkness and the Darkness Could Not Comprehend it

2. Even Today the Spiritual Kingdom of the Church Does Not Meet Self-Centered Expectations!

- a) The Church is NOT A Political Action Committee
- b) NOT a Social Justice Organization... or Casino, or Concert, or Social Club

3. The Church is THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF TRUTH (1 Timothy 3:15)

- a) Not the Government... Not the CDC, not Snopes or FB — the Church

C. SELF-CENTERED EXPECTATIONS CAUSE US TO WANT A DIFFERENT WAY TO BE SAVED

1. There is God's Plan of Salvation—and the Narcissist Plan of Salvation...

- a) I Want to Save Myself with Intelligence or Knowledge
- b) I Want to Save Myself with Psychology ...
- c) I Want to Save Myself Through Human Philosophy or Esoteric Ideology
- d) Or Science and Technology... or, Medicine and Prescriptions...

2. This is Where Self-Help Fails (Proverbs 20:9)

- a) Self-Help Can Help—But it is Still a Focus on SELF! It Cannot Atone for Sin
- b) The Answer to Our Brokenness is Not Found Within us—but from Above us in Christ

3. THOSE WHO REJECT GOD'S WAY OF SAVING WILL THEMSELVES BE REJECTED FROM GOD'S WAY OF SAVING

D. HOW SAD TO BE SO BLINDED BY SELF...

1. **We Won't Allow Jesus to Open Our Eyes with Truth!**
2. **So IMPRISONED by Self—That We Won't Allow Jesus to Set Us Free!**
3. **So OPPRESSED by Self—we Can't Let Jesus Set Us Free!**
4. **So BROKEN HEARTED—We Won't Even Allow Jesus Heal Our Wounds**

E. JESUS IS THE WAY, TRUTH AND LIFE!

1. **The Only Way to God**
2. **The Truth That Sets us Free!**
3. **The Abundant Life and Eternal Life We Truly Need and Want**

CONCLUSION:

1. **What is the Story You're Telling Yourself?**
 - a) Will You Let Jesus Set You Free? Open Your Eyes?
 - b) Heal Your Brokenness?
 - c) Release You From the Oppression of Guilt and Condemnation?
2. **Only God's Grace Can Save Us! Through the Blood of Jesus Christ**
 - a) But He Asks Us To Trust and Obey
 - b) He Knows What We Need!
 - c) We Need to Be Born Again to Be Free in Christ!
3. **There are some Wounds Only Christ Can Heal (Luke 4:18–19)**