



And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. (Luke 4:16)

Nazareth wasn't a large or important place in the first century, but there was a synagogue in town. Synagogues were places where Jews would gather to pray and hear the Scriptures read. Nazareth was Jesus' hometown.

And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives

and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "'Physician, heal yourself.'" What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.'" And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. But in truth, I tell you..."



Jesus references two episodes from the Old Testament involving prophets:

- ❖ Elijah being sent to a widow in Zarephath (1 Kings 17)
- ❖ Elisha cleansing Naaman the Syrian (2 Kings 5)

When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. But passing through their midst, he went away. (Luke 4:16-30)

So what can we learn that will help us in our own walk with Jesus? Let's dig in...



For Class & Family Discussion:

1. Of all the things Jesus could reference in his hometown synagogue that day, he found the place where it was written and read Isaiah 61:1-2. In your own words, what was Jesus communicating when he said, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing"?
2. Take a careful look at that 700-year-old prophecy. In what way did Jesus fulfill each of these lines? Can you think of specific instances from his life where he fulfilled...
 - "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me"?
 - "He has anointed me"?
 - "To proclaim good news to the poor"?
 - "He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives"?
 - "And recovering of sight to the blind"?
 - "To set at liberty those who are oppressed"?
 - "To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor"?
3. Why did he bring up Elijah being sent to the widow in Zarephath from 1 Kings 17?
4. Why did he bring up Elisha cleansing Naaman the Syrian from 2 Kings 5?
5. Why do you think the people who heard Jesus became filled with wrath?
6. So what about us? We want not only to "cross paths" with Jesus, but to walk with him as his disciples. So what should we carry away with us from this episode in his hometown synagogue?