

JESUS OF NAZARETH Text: Luke 4:16-30

Introduction:

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1. Jesus is not only the most famous person in Human History
2. He is also the most controversial person in all of History
3. Which Should Not Surprise Us Because There is No One Like Jesus!

Jesus of Nazareth is Much More than a Carpenter!

I. JESUS OF NAZARETH

A. JESUS GREW UP LIVING AND WORKING IN NAZARETH (Mt 2:23)

1. Nazareth was at that time, a small, quiet town in Galilee... [MAP]
 - a) Jesus grew up in this small Jewish Community in Galilee
2. But it was not entirely isolated—located within sight of one of the most famous trade routes in the world...
 - a) The Way by the Sea: Running north and south from Rome down to Africa...
 - b) The Same Road Joseph was sold into slavery into Egypt centuries before
 - c) This Trade Route branched off near Nazareth and going east to Damascus in Syria into the eastern realms of the Roman Empire
3. Nazareth was at the base of a large hill with a panoramic view...
 - a) from the Mediterranean sea in the east, to Sea of Galilee, to the hills of Samaria and down to the Jordan river valley.
 - b) Where Much of the History of Israel took Place Below

B. JESUS WAS A CARPENTER

1. A Humble and Practical Profession that was fitting for Jesus
 - a) Jesus built things with His hands:
 - b) whether it was equipment for agriculture such as yokes and plows
 - c) Or building practical things to make life easier such as houses or furniture
2. And Many of Jesus Parables used the common things of life...
 - a) Such as Planting, Harvesting, Fishing, and working.
3. Jesus Was Faithful in His Duties as a Young Man—and Was Living Out His Own Teachings Before Teaching Others
 - a) Working to Support Himself and His Family: Especially needed after Joseph died
 - b) Faithful in His dealings with customers, and neighbors
 - c) Faithful to God — worshipping in the Synagogue in Nazareth

C. JESUS WAS THIRTY YEARS OLD WHEN HE BEGAN HIS MINISTRY

1. But Being a Carpenter from Nazareth was an obstacle to the minds of many
 - a) When Simon told Nathaniel they had found the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, Nathaniel said, can anything good come out of Nazareth? He soon found out Jesus is the Messiah!
 - b) But There was Prejudice Against Jesus even in Nazareth... (Mark 6:1–6)

2. **The Messiah was prophesied to be born in Bethlehem not Nazareth**
 - a) They Didn't Understand Jesus was Born in Bethlehem but grew up in Nazareth
 - b) The **Emperor of Rome** Decreed a Census—Not Even Realizing His Decree was **Fulfilling a Messianic Prophecy** Recorded a 1,000 years before!
 - c) But Not only is Bethlehem Identified as the birthplace of the Messiah...
Galilee is also identified in a messianic prophecy (**Matthew 4:13–16**)
 3. **Jesus Fame Began to Grow After He Began His Ministry (Mark 1:21–28)**
 - a) Even the Demons Knew Who He Was! (v.24) *“What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”*
 - b) **Jesus of Nazareth—the Holy One of God**
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II. A PREVIEW IN NAZARETH OF HIS MISSION & REJECTION

A. JESUS PROCLAIMED HIS MISSION

by Reading this Messianic Text from Isaiah the Prophet: (Lk 4:16–19)

1. **Jesus is the Anointed One of the Lord (Greek: Christ; Hebrew: Messiah)**
2. **To Preach the Gospel Good News to the Poor**
3. **To Heal the Broken Hearted**
4. **To Give Freedom to the Captives**
5. **To Give Sight to the Blind**
6. **To Set the Oppressed and Downtrodden Free**
7. **To Proclaim the Acceptable Year of the Lord**

B. JESUS PROPHESED OF HIS REJECTION (Lk 4:20–30)

1. **At First they Were Amazed at what He was saying—
this is what they had been waiting for!**
2. **But Their Amazement Turns to Scorn...**
 - a) They Don't Like that Jesus is Applying this to Himself...
 - b) They Don't Like Jesus Performing Miracles in Capernaum and Not in Nazareth
3. **THEN Jesus tells them they will reject Him because of their Unbelief!**
 - a) Saying there were many widows in Israel during a great Famine in the Time of Elijah—But God sent Elijah to none of them except a Gentile!
 - b) And there were Many Lepers in the Time of Elisha—but None of them were Healed Except Naaman a GENTILE!
4. **They Were So Insulted and filled with Anger that they Try to Grab Jesus
and Throw Him off edge of a cliff!**

C. WHAT WAS THE REASON? —> Their Own Arrogant Unbelief

1. **They Were Offended that God would Help Gentiles Rather than Them**
2. **Offended that God did not perform miracles for faithless hypocrites...**
3. **Whether it's in the time of Elijah, or Elisha, or for them in time of Jesus**
4. **Faith is a Choice—They Didn't Believe Because they Didn't Want to Believe**

III. SOME LESSONS FOR US

A. JESUS OF NAZARETH ATTENDED THE ASSEMBLY WORSHIP (Lk 4:16)

1. **Jesus worshipped God with the assembly in the synagogue in Nazareth even though He would've perceived it was far from perfect, full of imperfect people!**

- a) He Could've Said: The Religious leaders are corrupt,
- b) The worship here is corrupt etc.
- c) The people are lukewarm here
- d) He Could've said: I already "knew all that stuff" —I don't need to study it more

—>**He knew the hearts of everyone in the assembly!**

But didn't use excuses to complain or refuse to attend!

2. **Even Today's many think they don't need to worship God or attend the assembly of worship or Studying the Bible with the Saints...**

- a) Thinking They Aren't right on this subject or that subject
- b) Or I Don't agree on this or that, or I already know that stuff...
- c) That person doesn't treat his wife right—he's a hypocrite
- d) That woman bosses her husband around and tells people what to do

3. **If a person doesn't want to Worship God—any Excuse will do...**

—>**Jesus Worshipped with the Assembly as God Commanded!**

B. JESUS OF NAZARETH WAS REJECTED BY MANY THEN— AND STILL REJECTED BY MANY NOW...

1. **The Truth will Set You Free — or it will make you mad...**

- a) On Many Accusations the Truth of Jesus Made People Mad!
- b) The Disciples were troubled Jesus had offend powerful people (**Matthew 15:12–14**)

2. **Jesus Didn't Meet their Self-Centered Expectations Then... and He Doesn't Meet Everyone's Self-Centered Expectations Today!**

Many Reject Jesus Divine Authority Today—in Two Ways:

- a) **By Trying to Pull Jesus Down to their Level:**

Dismissing Jesus as just a good person, a good teacher, but not the Son of God...

- b) **Or By Thinking of Themselves as if they were on His Level:**

False Beliefs that make us more important than God, and what We Think More Important than what God thinks!

3. **Right is What Meets MY Needs—Wrong is What Doesn't Meet MY Needs!**

"Much of the history of Christianity has been devoted to domesticating Jesus, to reducing that elusive, enigmatic, paradoxical person to dimensions we can comprehend, understand, and convert to our own purposes. So far it hasn't worked."
(Andrew Greeley)

4. It's Not Jesus Who must be Changed By Us—It is Us Who Must Be Changed By Jesus!

C. JESUS OF NAZARETH IS MORE THAN A CARPENTER...

—JESUS IS A CARPENTER WHO BUILT THE WORLDS

- 1. It's Astonishing to Realize that Jesus Created of the Cosmos!**
 - a) But This Amazing Fact About Jesus is revealed in Scripture! (**Hebrews 1:1–2**)
 - b) Not Only Did He Create All Things, He Upholds them By the Word of His Power (**1:3**)
 - c) All Things Were Created Through Him and For Him! (**Colossians 1:16**)
- 2. Paul says if they Knew Who Jesus Was They Wouldn't Have Crucified Him**
 - a) Yet Jesus Allowed Himself to Be Crucified By Human Beings He Created
 - b) On a Cross of Wooden Timbers Taken from Trees He Created
 - c) Nailed with Nails made of Iron ore He Created
 - d) His Blood Dripped Down on to the Dust of Golgotha, onto the Ground He Created
 - e) To Be the Atoning Sacrifice for Your Soul that He Created!

This Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon; without science and learning, He shed more light on things human and divine than all philosophers and scholars combined; without the eloquence of schools, He spoke such words of life as were never spoken before or since and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet; without writing a single line, He set more pens in motion, and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works of art, and songs of praise, than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times. (Philip Schaff)

CONCLUSION:

- 1. One Day Every Knee Will Bow and Every Tongue Will Confess that Jesus is Lord (Philippians 2:9–11)**
- 2. All the Self-Worship Will End, All the Lies Will Stop, All the Self-Deception will be over...**
- 3. And We Will Dwell in the House of God Forever**