



“The Mission of Jesus | Hometown Hero”

September 17

Discussion Questions

1. How much do you think your own identity (sense of purpose and direction in life) is wrapped up in your schoolwork or your employment? Why is that the case?
2. Read Luke 4:14-30. How does Jesus describe his purpose and mission? How do you think that was initially understood by the hometown crowd? Why are they so upset that they want to kill him at the end of the passage?
3. Jenny described Jubilee as a promise in ancient Israel, where every 50 years, slaves and prisoners would be released, and financial debts would be paid. It was intended as a “reset” for every generation so that injustice would not run rampant and destroy people for generations. In what ways were the people who heard Jesus speaking in the synagogue misunderstanding what he was talking about?
4. Why is it important to understand that justice is getting what we deserve, mercy is not getting what we deserve, and grace is getting what we don't deserve? Which of these three did the hometown audience think they

were getting and why? Which of these does Jesus give us and why?

5. What do you find are your primary motivators in life? What role does guilt, sentiment or pride play in motivating you? How does God's grace (getting what we don't deserve) motivate us to work for justice in our homes and places of work?
6. In what ways do you think God's hopes for the world (and your life) are so much bigger than our hopes? Spend some time praying that God's hopes would become your hopes?

Luke 4:14-30

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

14 Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. 15 He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

18 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' 22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' 23 He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum."' 24 And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. 25 But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; 26 yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. 27 There were also many lepers[a] in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.' 28 When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. 29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. 30 But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.