

Multiplication of Negatives and Positives

A positive times a positive is a... positive 2×2

A friend of a friend is a... friend

A positive times a negative is a... negative 2×-2

A friend of an enemy is an... enemy

A negative times a positive is a... negative -2×2

An enemy of a friend is an... enemy

A negative times a negative is a... positive -2×-2

An enemy of an enemy is a... friend

1

Multiplication of Negatives and Positives

A positive times a positive is a... positive

**Using this, we turn the world into friends and enemies
Or "Us" and "Them"**

It is very hard to do anything different from this!

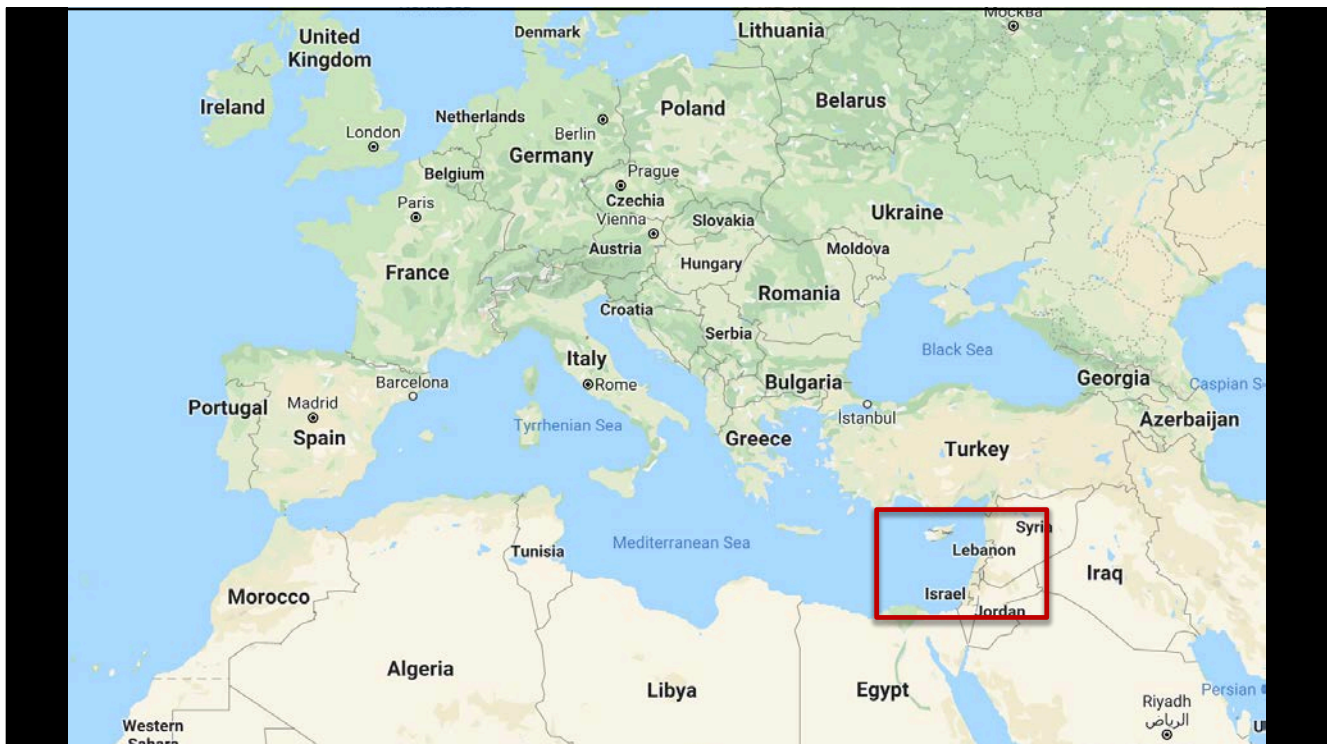
This is *not* God's plan

→ we need His power in our hearts!

2



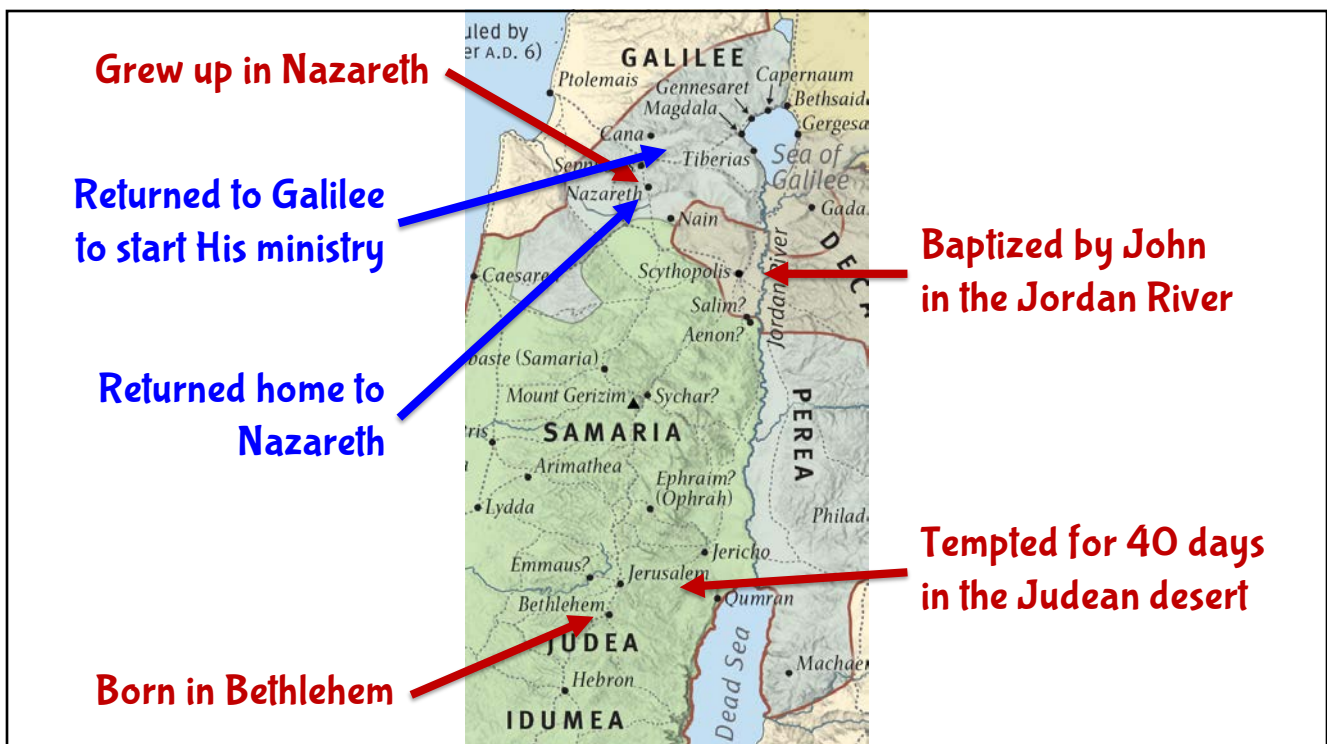
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4



5



6

Luke 4:14-15

¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the **power of the Spirit**, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was **teaching in their synagogues**, and **everyone praised him**.

7

Luke 4:16-21

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, **where he had been brought up**, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him.

8

Luke 4:16-21

Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim **good news** to the **poor**.

He has sent me

to proclaim **freedom** for the **prisoners**
and recovery of **sight** for the **blind**,
to set the **oppressed free**,

19 to proclaim the year of **the Lord’s favor**.”

9

Luke 4:16-21

20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. **21** He began by saying to them, “**Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.**”

10

Luke 4:22

²² All **spoke well** of him and were **amazed** at the **gracious words** that came from his lips. “**Isn’t this Joseph’s son?**” they asked.

11

Luke 4:23-27

²³ Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘**Physician, heal yourself!**’ And you will tell me, ‘**Do here in your hometown** what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’”

²⁴ “Truly I tell you,” he continued, “**no prophet is accepted in his hometown.**”

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Luke 4:23-27

²⁵ I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶ Yet **Elijah** was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of **Sidon**.

²⁷ And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of **Elisha** the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the **Syrian**.”

13

Luke 4:28-30

²⁸ All the people in the synagogue were **furious** when they heard this. ²⁹ They got up, **drove him out** of the town, and **took him to the brow of the hill** on which the town was built, in order to **throw him off the cliff**. ³⁰ But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

14

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15

Luke 4:14-30bib.ly/Lu4.NIV

14-15: Jesus' Spirit-empowered teaching leads all to praise

- Empowered by the Spirit
- Teaching
 - In the synagogues:
 - Place for worship and learning in Judaism
 - Fulfillment of Judaism, not a replacement
- Response

16-21: • Glorified by all
 22: • Usually an action toward God alone
 23-27: • Especially in the synagogue!
 28-30: • News spread across the whole region

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14-15: Jesus’ Spirit-empowered teaching leads all to praise

16-21: Teaching: very bold claim of fulfillment of prophecy

- Luke’s emphasis: where he grew up
- Jesus read Scripture with authority
 - People sensed the power in His proclamation
- Isaiah’s promise of the age of the Messiah
 - **Release**: from poverty, bondage, blindness, oppression
 - More than physical & social, but not less
 - Wherever Christians are, **release** should grow
- Year of the Lord’s favor, like “Jubilee”
 - Start of growing experience of this **release**

22:

23-27:

28-30:

20

Times of Release

Celebration

Effects

Sabbath

every 7th day

Rest for workers and animals
(and masters)

Sabbath year:

every 7th year

Release all “indentured servants”
unless they wanted to stay

All crops that grew were free for
everyone, including the foreigners

Jubilee:

every 7th Sabbath year (50th year)

Return all wealth (land)
to the original owners

Time of the Messiah

Unending and growing release for
all who are troubled or oppressed

21

Luke 4:14-30

14-15: Jesus’ Spirit-empowered teaching leads all to praise

16-21: Teaching: very bold claim of fulfillment of prophecy

- Jesus’ amazingly dramatic claim:
 - **The prophecy of the age of the Messiah was fulfilled that day in Jesus**

22:

23-27:

28-30:

22

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22: Seemingly very positive response

- “Gracious words”:
 - probably not: pleasing and kind speaking ability
 - probably better:
 - “words about grace”
 - “words that bring God’s work when met with faith”
 - His speaking these words brought power

23-27: • People claimed Jesus as “one of theirs”

28-30: • Family responsibility was a big deal!

24

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- The statement explains the proverb
 - “Physician, heal yourself!” means “Give your best to us (your own people)”
 - A statement of selfishness → “we-ishness”
- God's prophets are rejected by their hometown
 - Because they don't say, “You're special. You deserve better. Your enemies don't deserve the grace you deserve.”

28-30:

27

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- Jesus offers biblical proof
- Elijah: one of the greatest prophets
 - Israel was worshiping Baal, the storm god
 - Elijah prayed, and God stopped all rain for 3.5 years!
 - King of Israel tried to kill Elijah
 - God sent Elijah to provide food to a widow and her son in Sidon who took care of Elijah

28-30:

28

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- Elisha: one of the greatest prophets
 - Naaman was a top commander of Syria, a great enemy of Israel
 - Naaman came to Israel to be cured of leprosy
 - Elisha did it, and refused to accept payment
 - Elisha's servant was angry at this kindness
- God's prophets helped others and rebuked Israel

28-30: • And God's people are unhappy!

29

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²⁸ All the people in the synagogue were **furious** when they heard this. ²⁹ They got up, **drove him out** of the town, and **took him to the brow of the hill** on which the town was built, in order to **throw him off the cliff**. ³⁰ But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

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28-30: The people furiously reject Jesus!

- Everyone!
- Wrath, not just disagreement with the message
- Treated Jesus as a false prophet
 - Public, immediate death by rocks
- Even though Jesus was anointed & empowered!
- Jesus walked away: not yet time for His death

31

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32

The Big Idea

**God's wonderful work for humanity
is fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth
who brings great news
for those in trouble among all peoples
yet He is rejected by people who expect
special treatment for themselves and their people**

33

We naturally and automatically divide the world into...

“Us” and “Them”

- Economics
- Education
- Race and ethnicity
- Politics, countries, provinces
- Denomination or religion
- Family and relatives

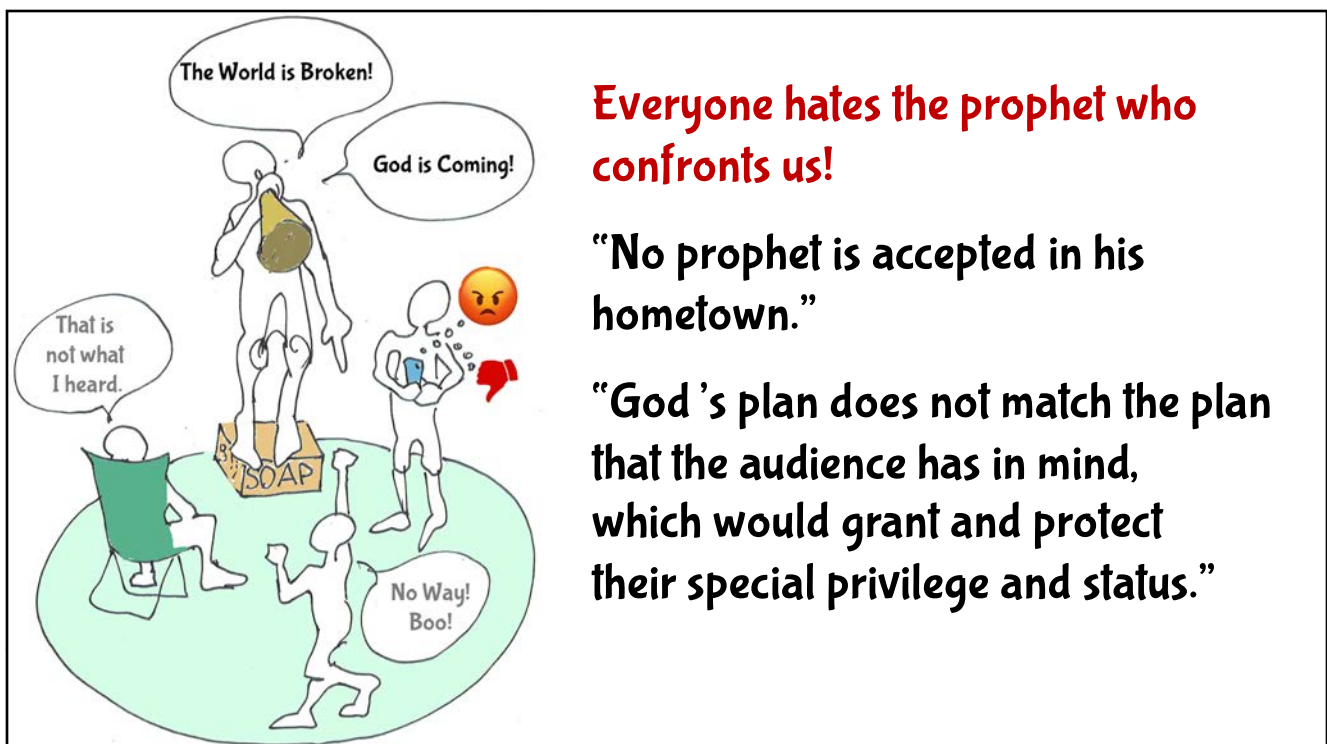
**Tribalism: concern for one's own
group at the expense of others
But God hates tribalism!**

Nothing unites “us” so effectively as a shared “them”,
especially when we find reason to judge “them”

34



35



36

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Application

- **Confess & repent of selfishness & tribalism**

- It is too small for God to rescue just our group!

“Not to us, Lord, not to us

but to your name be the glory,

because of your love and faithfulness.”

Psalms 115:1

“It is too small a thing for you to be my servant

to restore the tribes of Jacob

and bring back those of Israel I have kept.

I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,

that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

Isaiah 49:6

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Application

- Confess & repent of selfishness & tribalism
 - It is too small for God to rescue just our group!
 - “People of any culture are tempted to focus only on themselves rather than on God.”
 - A **We first** orientation is opposed to the work of God
 - And yet it has deeply infected humanity
 - Especially in this age
 - Including the church
 - We pick our prophets who emphasize the truth that confronts “them”

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Application

- Confess & repent of selfishness & tribalism
- Seek the flourishing of the diverse church
 - The diverse church expresses the heart of God
 - Unity in Christ across the diversity of humanity
 - Break down the dividing walls between people
 - Rejoice in how God has made us different and the same!

40

Application

- Confess & repent of selfishness & tribalism
- **Seek the flourishing of the diverse church**
 - The diverse church expresses the heart of God
 - The diverse church gives us constant practice to love and give preference to others who are different from “us”
 - Among people who love “us” and are doing the same for “us”
 - We are constantly turning “they” into “us”
 - We are constantly being turned from a “they” into being a part of “us”

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Application

- Confess & repent of selfishness & tribalism
- **Seek the flourishing of the diverse church**
 - The diverse church expresses the heart of God
 - The diverse church gives us constant practice to love and give preference to others who are different from “us”
 - Good to want it for others, yet every one of us needs it!
 - It is possible to be tribal in a diverse church
 - Who might fit your sense of “them”?
 - Choose to build connections with “them”
 - Making “them” into part of your “us” and you into their “us”
 - Listen and learn and love!

42

Application

- Confess & repent of selfishness & tribalism
 - Seek the flourishing of the diverse church
 - Spend and be spent for ‘them’
 - Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite **your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors**; if you do, **they may invite you back and so you will be repaid**. But when you give **Them** a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although **they cannot repay you**, **you will be repaid** at the resurrection of the **righteous**.”
- Luke 14:12-14*

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Application

- Confess & repent of selfishness & tribalism
- Seek the flourishing of the diverse church
- Spend and be spent for ‘them’
 - When you have power or advantages or resources that ‘they’ lack
 - “Freely you have received; freely give.” *Matthew 10:8*
 - And also when you feel like you are the one with less
 - Be like the “good Samaritan”
 - The hated one was caring for the hater
 - Do what God did for us in Christ: caring for the other
 - Always in humility and love

44

The Big Idea

**God's wonderful work for humanity
is fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth
who brings great news
for those in trouble among all peoples
yet He is rejected by people who expect
special treatment for themselves and their people**

45

Who is your “us” and your “them”?

- We are quick to forgive “us” and judge “them”
- We hesitate to open our hearts to “them”

**“Accept one another, then,
just as Christ accepted you,
in order to bring praise to God.”**

**Welcome
Forgive
Give
Love**

Romans 15:7

46