

Good News in a Sovereign Savior

Luke 4:14-30



Returning a favor

- What if God is on our side? → Romans 8:31
- Joshua 5:13-15

Luke 4:14-30

- 14-15: Spirit-filled teaching brought praise
- 16-21: Radical claim: Jesus is God's Messiah
- 22: Positive response...with some uncertainty
- 24-30: Jesus' rebuke revealed they were self-seeking

The Big Idea

Jesus is the Good and Sovereign God

Good

- Freedom
- Release from troubles
- God's favor

Sovereign

- He sets the agenda
- He decides who gets what blessing when

Fantastic blessings come as He decides to those who submit to His authority

- Sometimes He leads into suffering
- Sometimes He blesses others more, or first, or instead of, or even by taking from us!!
- As a means to bring His fantastic blessings

Imagine that we need urgent help

Two options:

- We hire a new helper
- We hire a new boss

What are some differences?

- Who sets the agenda?
- Who assigns the roles and tasks?

Is becoming a follower of Jesus more like getting a new helper or getting a new boss?

"Those who stand upon their rights and insist on preferential treatment are not likely to appreciate one who offers the chance to spend and be spent in the service of others and a Gospel which leaves no room for privilege."

By confronting self-orientation, Jesus was leading them into their greatest joy!

What are Jesus' priorities?

The Father's glory

That all people would know and rejoice in God

People's transformation

Cause all His people to grow to be more like Jesus

NOT:

- make my life easier, richer, more successful...
- help me and my people rise above others

Faithful people who encountered trouble

Job: "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised." Job 1:20-21

Paul: The Lord said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

1 Corinthians 12:7-10

Jesus: "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." Matthew 16:23

Disciples: "Whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it." Luke 9:23-24

The people of Nazareth

They wanted Jesus to give special treatment to them

Jesus challenged them: what if God gives more blessings to those you don't love?

In response, they rejected Jesus

What if God's agenda is that other people are blessed now INSTEAD of us?

What if He rebukes and disciplines me for 'smaller sins' and seems to ignore 'bigger sins' in others?

Application

Find joy in Jesus. Submit to Jesus. As one thing

God the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are committed to work all things together for our good!

Freedom and joy through knowing God and becoming more like Him

He wants to transform us rather than settle us into a comfortable place

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. How do you tend to respond to authority (especially when you disagree with that authority)? Does that show you anything about how you respond to God?
2. If someone were to listen to your thoughts and prayers and words, and watch your actions, in what ways might they see evidence that you see Jesus more like a helper than a boss? In what ways might they see evidence that you see Jesus as your Sovereign Lord?
3. How does learning to submit to Jesus' authority actually serve as a means to joy? What are some illustrations of this, whether personally or in the lives of others?
4. What is a place of particular challenge for you to submit to Jesus' authority? What might genuine confession and repentance look like for you in this area?