

Meeting the One whose birth we celebrate

- Imagine meeting Jesus
 - Perhaps the most highly honored human being in history
 - His teaching was amazing!
 - His miracles were astounding!
 - He was incredibly popular wherever He went
- But when he came home...
 - They became furious and wanted to kill Him!
 - **Meeting the real Jesus might not be quite what we expect**

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Good News...or not

ref.ly/Lu4;niv



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Prophecy when Jesus was an infant

Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to **cause the falling and rising of many in Israel** and to be a sign that **will be spoken against** so that the thoughts of **many hearts will be revealed**. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Luke 2:34-35

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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.

Through the whole countryside,
everyone praised Jesus

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

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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."

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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.”

**Jesus' claim: I am God's Chosen One
who fulfills His promised deliverance
for those who are in need**

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Luke 4:22-30

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.

**“He's one of US”
The very thing Jesus was not!**

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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.'"

"Your own people deserve to experience at least as much as others experience"

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

God's work is not for US

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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.

As a prophet, Jesus confronted His hometown
And they furiously rejected Him

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“He came to that which was **his own**,
but **his own** did not receive him.” John 1:11

Any who think they are entitled to God’s blessing
in Jesus will be horribly disappointed

The only way to be blessed by Jesus
is by admitting we don’t deserve His blessing

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The Big Idea

Jesus brings good news
to those who know they have no claim
except their need and their faith in Jesus

Repentance
Humbly seeking help
is the only way to be blessed by Jesus
Those who follow Jesus are called to self-sacrifice

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Application

Put to death...

Confess our pride

and our claim that Jesus is on our side

Then humbly ask Jesus for the gift of His love

"For the Son of Man came
to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10

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