

Good News...or not

Luke 4:14-30



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

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

Luke 2:14-30

14-15:

Through the whole countryside, everyone praised Jesus

16-21:

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

22-30:

“He’s one of US”...The very thing Jesus was not!

“Your own people deserve to experience at least as much as others experience”

God’s work is not for US

As a prophet, Jesus confronted His hometown

And they furiously rejected Him

“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

The Big Idea

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

Humbly seeking help is the only way to be blessed by Jesus

Those who follow Jesus are called to self-sacrifice

Application

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

Put to death our pride and our claim that Jesus is on our side

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. What is your reaction to learning how furious the people in Jesus’ hometown were when He preached this sermon to them? Why were they so angry?
2. In what ways are you tempted to think that you deserve something better from Jesus than someone else? Or at least to receive as much good as they are getting? Maybe it is because of a moral comparison, or a comparison of status in the Church or in society, or the history of Christianity among your people, or something else.
3. One of the major hurdles in the early church was for Jewish Christians to accept Gentile Christians as full equals. What groups of people might face similar hurdles today?

Conversation starters

What do you think it would be like to meet Jesus?