

## §32: JESUS' PREACHING AT NAZARETH

**Luke 4:16–30**

### Jesus Reads in the Synagogue

4:16–19

**16** And He came from Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and he entered the synagogue, according to His custom, on the day of the Sabbath, and stood up to read.

**17** And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him; and having unrolled the scroll, He found the place where it was written:

**18** The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,  
because He anointed Me  
to preach good news to the poor;  
He has sent Me  
to proclaim to the captives release,  
and to the blind, recovery of sight,  
to send off the downtrodden in release,

**19** to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.

### Jesus Comments on the Reading

4:20–21

**20** And having rolled up the scroll, He gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were looking intently at Him.

**21** Now He began to say to them:  
Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing [lit. ears].

### Response of the People

4:22

**22** And all were testifying of Him [favorably] and were wondering at the words of grace that were coming out of His mouth; and they were saying:  
Is this not Joseph's son?

### The True Character of Nazareth

4:23–24

**23** And He said to them:  
Certainly you will say this parable to Me:  
Physician, heal Yourself;  
everything that we heard was done at Capernaum,  
do also here in your home town.

**24** And He said:  
Truly, I say to you that no prophet is welcome in his home town.

### Concerning Elijah

4:25–26

**25** But upon truth I say to you:  
Many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah,  
when the heaven was shut for three years and six months,  
when a great famine came over all the land.

**26** And to none of them was Elijah sent,  
except to Sarepta [=Zarephath] of Sidon to a woman, a widow.

**Concerning Elisha**

4:27

**27** And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet,  
and none of them was cleansed,  
except Naaman the Syrian.

**Concerning Elisha**

4:27

**28** And all in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things;  
**29** and they arose and cast Him out of the city  
and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built,  
in order to throw Him down the cliff.  
**30** But He, having passed through their midst, went on.

**Notes**

1. **Scroll . . . of Isaiah (4:17).** A nearly complete scroll of Isaiah dating from about the 2nd century B.C. was found among the Dead Sea scrolls. It is written in 54 columns on 17 sheets of leather sown together into a single scroll measuring some 24 feet in length.
2. **Release (Lk. 4:18).** The word in the Hebrew text of Isaiah is found also in Lev. 15:10; Jer. 34:8,15,17; Ezek. 46:17 where it seems to refer to the release effected by the year of Jubilee.