

JESUS' FIRST SERMON

Luke 4:16-30

WHY GO TO CHURCH?

“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and he went to the synagogue, as his custom was, on the Sabbath day.” (Luke 4:16)

Mistakes Minister's Make:

Irrelevant sermons ...

Sermons that are too long, too dull, and too antagonistic.

People Go to Church ...

To socialize, to find mates, to make business contacts, to be seen.

To worship God, to study God's word, to pray.

IS THE CHURCH FORGETFUL?

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news ...” (Luke 4:18)

Has the Church Become Isolated?

Is there a moat around the church isolating us from the world?

Words that sound just right on Sunday sound a little strange on the street.

Good News to the Poor - “We are all beggars.” (Martin Luther)

Release to the Captives – Moral and spiritual slavery.

Giving Sight to the Blind – Moral and spiritual blindness.

IS THE CHURCH SINFUL?

“When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath.” (Luke 4:28)

Two Types of Sin:

Respectable Sins (Gossip, Pride, Envy).

Unrespectable Sins (Robbery, Assault, Theft).

“The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners.” (1 Tim. 1:15)

“The Gospel is bad news before it is good news. It is the news that man is a sinner...” (Frederick Buechner)

IS THE CHURCH CONTENTIOUS?

“And they rose up and put him out of the city, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw him down headlong.”

We Like to Fight!

Levels of Conflict: Problems, Disagreement, Contest, Fight/Flight-Destruction.

Colors of Conflict: Red, Black, Gray, Blue, Green.

IS THE CHURCH A COMMUNITY?

“And all spoke well of him, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth ...” (Luke 4:22)

Focus on what you have in common.

Encourage rather than criticize.

Don't listen to gossip.

Become like Christ!

Prayer Concerns: Members – Burney Biesel, Sarah Clark, Dorys Dawson, Diane Mallard, Anne Miller, Carol Webb ... Friends – Bobby Atkins, Taylor Barrineau, Lane Brasfield, Sarah Arnold Conway, Jonathan Cupples, Travis Davison, Sr., Wallis Ann Davison, Raoul Drum, Kathy Greer, Jean Hansford, Jim Hixon, Benette Hobday,, Geraldyn McFarland, Theresa Patrick, Edith Robinson, Joseph David Smith, Earl Vickery, Stephen Ministry ...

PASTORAL PRAYER

Loving God, we give thanks for this world of such variety – for the darkness of night and the brightness of day, for storms and for sunshine, for summer warmth and winter cold, and for the joy of living through it all.

We give thanks, too, for such varied people to live with – for the somber and the cheerful, for the practical and the dreamers, for young and old, for people of colors and cultures and languages different from our own, for diversity of faith and interest, and for your having created us with such wonderful differences.

Help us rejoice in our diversity. Keep us from seeking out only those just like ourselves, from building little walls that exclude those whom you have created by different design. But help us reach out and embrace all your creation and all your people.

Father, however different we may be from one another, we all know what sadness is, and pain. For those who are hurting now in some special way, we pray your presence. Let us reach out to them in a compassion that transcends our differences, for this is our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

LUKE 4:16-30

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and he went to the synagogue, as his custom was, on the sabbath day. And he stood up to read; and there was given to him the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened the book and found the place where it was written,

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” And all spoke well of him, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth; and they said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” And he said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Physician, heal yourself; what we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here also in your own country.’” And he said, “Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his own country. But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when there came a great famine over all the land; and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.” When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. And they rose up and put him out of the city, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw him down headlong. But passing through the midst of them he went away.

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

February 4	<i>Do You Remember?</i>	Luke 5:1-11
February 11	<i>Blessings and Curses</i>	Luke 6:17-26

On the Radio (1450 AM):

February 4	<i>God's Attitude Toward Prayer</i>	Luke 18:1-8
February 11	<i>Speaking God's Word</i>	Matthew 10:16-28