

Luke 4

The journey to Galilee was probably a long time after the temptation. Luke omits many events from Jesus' early ministry which other gospels especially John include (he just summarises things in verse 15) – and goes straight to his preaching at Nazareth. Jesus obviously had the habit of regular worship at the synagogue, let that be an example and model for us.

Jesus was becoming widely known as a preacher and so it was natural that he should be asked to read the scripture and speak on it. Scripture was generally read in the original Hebrew and translated into Aramaic either by the speaker or someone else (Most people only spoke Aramaic). Apparently Isaiah was the set reading (the scroll was given to him), but we can't know if Jesus selected the passage or that was also set. When he says he sat down in verse 20 we have to remember that Rabbi's preached sitting down.

It's a revolutionary passage, we don't know if Jesus chose it or if that's what he was given – but that was nothing like as revolutionary as Jesus' comments on it. You can just imagine their reaction in v22 – of course the answer is Yes BUT No!

In verse 24-27 Jesus anticipates the fact the Jews won't accept the gospel and Salvation will be for Gentiles as well as Jews. Jesus illustrates the point with examples of two great prophets.

You can see why they were angry. Jesus just walked through them, perhaps this was a miracle in itself.

But what was bad news for them is good news for us.

V31-37

Jesus heals on the Sabbath but no one complains he's breaking the Law – perhaps this is how the news of his Sabbath activities got out. Later the Pharisees came along and challenged him. Jesus doesn't perform spells or rituals or even pray – he just commands.

V38-44

Jesus heals many (the people are brought after sundown, because they couldn't be carried on the Sabbath), but he can't allow them to become dependent on him – he needs to preach and teach widely.

CHAPTER 5

V1-11

Jesus performs some more miracles.

V6

obedience to Jesus brings positive results.

V8

Peter recognises this as a miracle and is called to a new life. When we recognise the true nature of Jesus we're called to a new life. They left everything, even a huge catch of fish wasn't as important as Jesus. They followed him, they became disciples in the truest sense.