

REJECTING JESUS

Luke 4:14-30

● WHO JESUS IS AND WHAT HE OFFERS

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. ¹⁶He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. ¹⁷The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰Then 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, ²¹and he began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” Luke 4:14-21 (New International Version)

Jesus’ Two Claims

- He is a prophet who declares the arrival of the new era.
- His mission is to bring about release from sin.

Jesus’ message is for the spiritually poor. (See Luke 18:13.)

Jesus’ Mission

- Freedom from bondage to sin - “freedom for the prisoners”

“... everyone who sins is a slave to sin.” John 8:34 (NIV)

“release” = Greek = *aphesis* = the release of someone from an obligation or debt = pardon = forgiveness

God forgave us all our sins; he cancelled the unfavorable record of our debts with its binding rules and did away with it completely by nailing it to the cross.
Colossians 2:13c-14 (Good News Translation)

- A remedy for spiritual blindness - “sight to the blind”

“ ‘I am sending you to them ¹⁸to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’ ”
Acts 26:17b-18 (NIV)

- A release from the burden of sin

● SEVEN REASONS WHY PEOPLE REJECT JESUS

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. ²³Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself! Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’ ” ²⁴“I tell you the truth,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵I 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. ²⁶Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷And 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.” ²⁸All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹They 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 down the cliff. ³⁰But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way. Luke 4:22-30 (NIV)

See 1 Kings 17 and 2 Kings 5 for the stories of the widow and Naaman.

Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. ⁸Then the word of the LORD came to him: ⁹“Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food.” 1 Kings 17:7-9 (NIV)

See 1 Kings 17:10-12, 13-14.

... “Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth.” 1 Kings 17:24 (NIV)

Reasons People Reject Jesus

- Religion ○ Theology ○ Control
- Greed and Selfishness ○ Familiarity ○ Comfort

So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. [You know you're poor when you don't even have your own sticks.] He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?"¹¹ As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread."¹² "As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die." 1 Kings 17:10-12 (NIV)

Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son."¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.' " 1 Kings 17:13-14 (NIV)

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