

Life Group Notes

Sunday 18th October 2020

Speaker: Andy McCullough

Title: Luke: No Selective Salvation

Passage: Luke 4: 16-30

Jesus grew up in Nazareth. Not a powerful, influential place – a small, unimpressive, poor region of the country. When Jesus reads from Isaiah 61:1, the listeners love it! This is one of their favourite passages of Scripture. “He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.” Yes please!

But then Jesus goes on to mention Elijah and Elisha, local northern heroes. He mentions the times that they show God’s acceptance to enemies/ outsiders – from Sidon and from Syria. The people do not like this, and they try to kill Jesus by throwing him off a cliff.

Why were they angry? Because Jesus left off the vengeance verse Isaiah 61:2b. A national saviour is supposed to say, “Favour for us, vengeance for them.” Jesus has just said, “Favour for all.” Jesus is not a national saviour, Jesus is an international saviour.

People want selective salvation – we are happy when Jesus speaks of freedom and deliverance, healing and heaven, but not so happy when he touches our inner sins – prejudice and pride and racism.

But there is no selective salvation. Jesus wants to save you from things that you want to be saved from, and from things that you don’t want to be saved from.

Questions:

1. Do you think it is significant that Jesus grew up in a poor, unimpressive town like Nazareth? If so, what is the significance?
2. Why were the people so impressed with Jesus in verse 22?
3. Why were the people so angry in verse 28-29?
4. Are there things that you want Jesus to rescue you from? Pray for one another.
5. How can you tell if Jesus is putting his finger on something deep inside you that he wants to expose? Has this happened to you? What did you do about it?
6. How does Jesus save us from things that we don’t really want to be saved from? Can you give an example from your own life?