

LIFE GROUP LESSON

Unreasonable Faith - Week of March 24

Introduction

Has the Lord ever called you to step out in faith and do something that didn't make sense?

Often our hesitancy in moving forward with an unreasonable mission is due to the reaction we fear from others – those who know us best and expect us to remain reasonable. However, if you have experienced such a call and responded in obedience (hopefully you did even if the assignment didn't make sense at the time) then you understand this week's plain truth: When you know your mission, normalcy (what is reasonable) to you, may be unreasonable to others. Throughout the pages of Scripture, across the landscape of history, when God calls individuals to stand strong against persecution, there is a price to be paid.

We typically default to *routine* and doing things *as usual* for manageability and control. But do we pay homage to the routine over God? In today's text, Jesus goes 'as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath' and stands up to read from the scroll of Isaiah. Yet, Jesus moves very quickly from reasonable to unreasonable when he begins to challenge the people. This is Nazareth, Jesus' boyhood home. Of all people they should be the ones who are proud of him! But they are not; for Jesus says Isaiah is speaking of him and that *today* in their midst the prophecy is fulfilled. They cannot see the greater mantle over this son of Joseph. Their lack of faith and hard hearts prevent them from experiencing miracles and being set free by the truth.

Background:

Read Luke 4:14-30

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Notice Jesus returns to the region of Galilee filled with the Holy Spirit's power (v14) after being in the Judean wilderness forty days and being tempted by the devil (see Luke 4:1-13). Times of testing make us strong for the trials ahead. Jesus' time in the wilderness prepared him to face the scowls of Nazareth. Think of a time the Lord allowed you to face hard testing. Looking back, do you now see it was to prepare you for trials and persecution? What are you learning from this experience? Have you stopped and thanked the Lord for seeing you through?

The Scripture Jesus reads is Isaiah 61:1-2. Imagine being in the synagogue. Once Jesus reads from the scroll of Isaiah the prophet and hands it back to the attendant, what does he do and what does he say? (vv 20-21)

How do the people respond? (v22)

How does Jesus respond when the people say 'How can this be... Isn't this Joseph's son?' (vv 23-24)

What does Jesus say that really begins to offend the people? (vv 25-27). What does this tell you about Jesus' mission?

How do the people react? (v28-29). How does Jesus remain in control? (v30)

Where are you in this scenario?

2. What are you going to do about it?

Jesus is clear about his mission. God in human form audibly speaks the words of Isaiah written some 700+ years prior to this moment:

*"... the Spirit of the LORD is upon me,
for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released,
that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free,
and that the time of the LORD's favor has come."*

Read Luke 7:18-23

Compare Luke 4:18-19 with Luke 7:22

Unreasonable Faith

Text: Luke 4:14–21

PLAIN TRUTH

**When you know your _____,
_____ to you is _____
to others.**

Luke 4:18-19 – the Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has

- 1)... anointed to bring good news to the poor
- 2)... sent me to proclaim
 - a. that captives will be released
 - b. that the blind will see
 - c. that the oppressed will be set free
 - d. that the time of the LORD's favor has come

Luke 7:22 – ‘Go back to John and tell him what you have seen and heard...’

- 1) the blind see
- 2) the lame walk
- 3) those with leprosy are cured
- 4) the deaf hear
- 5) the dead are raised to life and
- 6) the Good News is being preached to the poor

Jesus knew his mission and Jesus lived into his mission. How well do you know the mission of Christ Church? As a fully devoted follower of Christ, will you pick up the mantle of our Lord? You are called to preach, heal, proclaim the Good News *and* tell what you have seen and heard.

3. How can we help you?

How well are we living into Jesus' mission? As a Life Group discuss practical ways we can live more intentionally into Christ's mission? Close by praying for Christ Church and Christians all over the world to stay strong and hopeful amidst persecution and suffering. Thank God for John the Baptist and his faithfulness. He was discouraged in prison; who do you need to encourage?

One Year Bible Reading For This Week:

Mar. 24: Deuteronomy 2:1-3:29, Luke 6:12-38, Psalm 67:1-7, Proverbs 11:27

Mar. 25: Deuteronomy 4:1-49, Luke 6:39-7:10, Psalm 68:1-18, Proverbs 11:28

Mar. 26: Deuteronomy 5:1-6:25, Luke 7:11-35, Psalm 68:19-35, Proverbs 11:29-31

Mar. 27: Deuteronomy 7:1-8:20, Luke 7:36-8:3, Psalm 69:1-18, Proverbs 12:1

Mar. 28: Deuteronomy 9:1-10:22, Luke 8:4-21, Psalm 69:19-36, Proverbs 12:2-3

Mar. 29: Deuteronomy 11:1-12:32, Luke 8:22-39, Psalm 70:1-5, Proverbs 12:4

Mar. 30: Deuteronomy 13:1-15:23, Luke 8:40-9:6, Psalm 71:1-24, Proverbs 12:5-7

March 24, 2024