

Jesus of Nazareth

(Luke 4:14-30)

As you continue in your Bible I hope you are paying close attention to the geography that is being given. These are real places that our Lord went to! They are real places that we could go to today!

Last week, we saw that Capernaum was where the Lord took up a residence. It also was a place where He did a lot of preaching and miracles. But in addition to spending a lot of time in Capernaum, He also spent a lot of time in Nazareth. This town is closely associated with Jesus in the gospels.

I. Jesus of Nazareth:

- A. It sits 80 miles north of Bethlehem.
 - 1. It is 15 miles from the western shore of Galilee.
 - 2. It is 60 miles from the city of Jerusalem.
 - 3. Since it sits on a mountaintop, from it you can see Megiddo and Mount Carmel.
- B. It is never mentioned in the Old Testament.
- C. It was considered insignificant in the time of Jesus (John 1:46). Nathaniel was aware of Nazareth's bad reputation.
- D. Nazareth has over 75,000 people today. Unlike in the time of Jesus, today it is the largest city of the northern district of Israel.
- E. The majority of people are either Muslim or Jewish.
- F. There are some Catholics.
- G. The only Church of Christ in Israel is in Nazareth.
- H. Because of its size today, few archaeological discoveries have been made in Nazareth over the past few decades.
- I. What ties did Jesus have to Nazareth?
 - 1. He grew up here (Matthew 2:19-23).
 - 2. He took up carpentry here (Mark 6:3).
 - 3. He lived with a big family here (Mark 6:3). He had brothers and sisters.
 - 4. From here He came to John to be baptized in the Jordan River (Mark 1:9).
 - 5. The demons He casts out knew He was from here (Mark 1:23-24).
- J. Jesus was rejected twice in Nazareth.
 - 1. We read about one in our Bible reading last week (Mark 6:1-6). This episode actually took place in the latter part of Jesus' ministry.
 - 2. The first time Jesus was rejected in Nazareth took place in Luke 4:14-30. After revealing their hard hearts and talking about God's past blessings on the Gentiles, the people of Nazareth tried to throw Him off of a cliff!

II. Lessons from Nazareth (Luke 4:14-30):

- A. Getting mad at the truth doesn't change. Instead of rejecting it, we need to believe and obey it (John 8:32).
- B. Jesus does not force people to serve Him (Joshua 24:15). This has been the will of God since the beginning.
- C. God's will can never be stopped! It was not the will of God that Jesus die at this time and in this way!

Conclusion: The Lord is not just Jesus of Nazareth. He is also Jesus the Son of God !