



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Hometown Prophet Rejected

APRIL 10, 2013

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In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke, a gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Luke, in chapter four, describes a hostile witness, tempter and adversary, the devil. After Jesus had spent forty days and nights in the wilderness and no having food during that time and under unsuccessful continual temptations or testing by the devil, Jesus returned to His hometown, Nazareth in Galilee, to begin His earthly ministry. As was His custom, Jesus was in the synagogue on the Sabbath, reading scripture and teaching.

“And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, “Is this not Joseph’s son?” And He said to them, “No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me, ‘Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.’ ” And He said, “Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown. “But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land; and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. “And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.” And all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things; and they got up and drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff. But passing through their midst, He went His way.” (Luke 4:21-30 NASB)

Scripture was fulfilled. Jesus stood and read His selected passage (Isaiah 61:1-2a) and sat down. Jesus, in this passage, shared prophetic announcements. Jesus shared that He was the fulfillment of the scriptures. The scriptures were fulfilled in Him. Jesus was anointed by the Spirit to minister to all the needy and to preach the gospel of salvation to all.

Jesus would set the captives free, give sight to the blind and provide freedom from oppression for those that follow Him. Jesus told those in the synagogue that the day proclaimed by Isaiah was here. He, Jesus, was the Messiah.

The congregation was amazed and skeptical. The people were surprised because He was Joseph's son. They wondered how Jesus could be the Messiah. Jesus possibly gave them a break, because He said that no prophet is welcome in his hometown. Jesus understood that it would be difficult for them to understand His message. Jesus continues with two examples of other prophets that were rejected. Elijah and his son Elisha were the two examples that the congregation knew from scripture.

Elijah and Elisha ministered to the needy. Elijah and Elisha were rejected by their people and so they ministered to the needy. The needy were represented by Gentile widows (1Ki 17:8-24) and a Gentile leper (2Ki 5) and considered by the Jewish people of the day as the lowest of the low. God through Elijah and Elisha ignored the widows and lepers in Israel due to their widespread unbelief and through His grace provided healing to the two Gentile examples. The congregation hated this example because they understood that Jesus was talking about their unbelief. Luke shares that they were filled with rage and attempted to kill Jesus. They were upset because they did not want to consider themselves as the poor, the captives, the blind and the oppressed (4:18-19, Is 61:1-2a). Yet those are the ones that Jesus came to preach the gospel and provide salvation.

For Your Consideration:

- Is it difficult for you to see God at work in those that are part of your 'hometown'? Your family, longtime friends and neighbors?
- Do you recognize that you are or were once blind, oppressed and a captive to sin, in need of a Savior, a Messiah?
- Have you given your life to the One who fulfilled prophecy, Jesus Christ the Messiah?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44