



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Hometown Hero?

APRIL 3, 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 not having food during that time and under unsuccessful continual temptations or testing by the devil, Jesus returned to Nazareth in Galilee to begin His earthly ministry.

*“And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, **“THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.”** And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, **“Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”**”(Luke 4:16-21 NASB)*

Jesus returned to Nazareth. Additionally, Matthew and Mark records, *“Now when Jesus heard that John had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee;”* (Mt. 4:12; Mk. 1:14) John records (Jn 1:35-4:42) an extensive ministry by Jesus in Judea and Jerusalem prior to His return to Nazareth. Many of the recorded events by John are: Calls First Disciples (1:35-51); First Miracle (2:1-11); First Cleansing of Temple (2:13-22); Teaches Nicodemus about new birth (3:1-21); Samaritan Woman at Well (4:5-42). So sometime after the testing in the wilderness and ministry in Jerusalem and Judea, Jesus returned (28-29AD) to Nazareth in Galilee, where He was brought up.

People of Nazareth knew Jesus because He was raised in their small town and they knew that there was something different about Him. The people always saw Jesus in the synagogue on the Sabbath.

Jesus was in the synagogue on the Sabbath. The synagogue was the Jewish gathering and meeting place for worship which included scripture reading, teaching and prayers. Someone's home many times became a synagogue. When scripture in the synagogue was read all stood and for teaching, all sat. It was customary in the local synagogue to ask a visiting rabbi (Jewish teacher) to read scripture and make appropriate comments or teachings about the scripture reading. Jesus was a rabbi, He was visiting, He had become very popular and He was also a local man from Nazareth. Jesus was given the book of the prophet Isaiah to read.

Jesus, Holy Spirit filled, selected Isaiah 61:1-2. Jesus stood and read His selected passage 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, sight to the blind and freedom of all oppression for those that follow Him. Jesus told those in the synagogue that that day proclaimed by Isaiah was here.

He, Jesus, was and is the Messiah Scripture was and is fulfilled.

For Your Consideration:

- What is your custom on the Sabbath? Are you always found in a place of worship?
- When God's Word, scripture, is read or shared, do you give it proper respect?
- As a captive to sin, have you been set free by the loving mercy of God through His gift of grace found only in faith in Jesus, Savior and Lord?

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