

### Result of the struggle in the Desert: 4:14

Jesus returned to Galilee with **Dunamis** of God on him! **Dunamis = dynamite! ... dynamic**

- Before the Desert Jesus was filled with the Spirit.
- After the Desert Jesus **moved into Power and Authority** AS Man
- He will now inaugurate His Ministry and make WAR on Satan.

### **BEGINNING OF PUBLIC MINISTRY**

Here Jesus declares HOW he will  
use the Power and Authority  
given to him by God

### Introduction to Jesus' Mission:

First Luke begins with a Mission statement, followed by a series of episodes that evoke the entire course and meaning of Jesus' life.

- a) Jesus comes to Galilee of the Gentiles: Isaiah 9:1-6; 4: Lk14-15
- b) He gives his **"Ubi et Orbi" address** announcing his Mission to Nazareth and the world: Lk 4: 16-30. He began in his own area – Galilee, and in his own town – Nazareth, and in the synagogue he frequented all his life – among those who knew him.
- c) He then moved to the lake town of Capernaum, which he would have known well: Lk 4: 31-41
- d) Finally, he went to Judea, and then to its Temple: Lk 4: 42-44
- e) Up to now Luke has been careful to give the reader Jesus' true identity. Now the very Mission itself will demand that Israel knows his true identity so that the nation can choose to accept or reject the Messiah God sent to them.

### **INAUGURATION of the Mission at Nazareth:** 4:16-30

- Jesus chose Isaiah 61:1-2 as his text to explain what he was about... because the character of his Mission was defined 800 years in advance by Isaiah.  
John the Baptist had fulfilled Is 40, as the forerunner.
- He was the prophesied Messiah with a spiritual Mission – not the military leader they were led to expect by the Pharisees and priests of the Temple, the Sadducees
- He had already been anointed by the Spirit of God at his Baptism... that spirit of Prophecy will be poured out on the nascent Church at Pentecost later: Acts 2:3
- What Isaiah said about God's Holy Servant is fulfilled in Jesus: Is 42, 49, 51, 52-53
- Jesus declared why God's Power and Authority (as man) was given to him.  
- why He is the Anointed One... the Messiah.

### **The purpose of this Anointing was:**

- a) to bring the Gospel to the poor and heal the broken-hearted
- b) to proclaim liberty to captives
- c) new sight to the blind
- d) to set the downtrodden free
- e) to proclaim the Lord's Year of Favour

- a) The poor are all those who acknowledge their need of God whether they are **materially** poor or not.
- many **rich** people are **spiritually poor** (destitute)
  - some **rich** people are **spiritually rich** (in good shape)
  - many **poor** people are **spiritually poor** (dreadful state)
  - many **poor** people are **spiritually rich** (saints)

**Examples:**

Zacchaeus	materially rich / spiritually poor
Rich farmer	materially rich / spiritually poor
Prodigal Son	materially rich / spiritually poor
Lazarus	materially poor / spiritually rich
Martha/Lazarus	materially rich / spiritually rich

- b) The captives are not just those in prisons
- demoniacs are spiritual captives
  - lepers are spiritual and physical captives
  - those in sinful lifestyles are captives to sin (Jn 8:44)
- c) Sight is not **just** physical sight, but **spiritual** awakening
- e.g. blind man 18:35;43 "he followed Jesus along the road"
- Blindness is not **just** physical: spiritual blindness is the **real** problem.
  - eg. Simon the Pharisee is blind to his own condition: 7:44-47
  - eg. disciples are still blind to who Jesus is: 9:37-43
  - eg. Pharisees et al show **deliberate** blindness: 14:1-6
- d) The downtrodden are all those oppressed by Satan, sin, sickness, death or Hell.
- e) Jesus' Gospel will be preached to the poor, marginalised etc.
- f) He will confront evil in all its forms – i.e. all the guises that Satan uses to deceive humanity.
- g) **The Lord's Year of Favour:** This is the Dawn of the New Era of Salvation
- Cf. 2 Cor 6:2
- NB** Luke combines 2, maybe even 3 visits to Nazareth.

**There isn't enough text to show the mood changing from favourable to rejection... to killing!**

The Day of Salvation

The Acceptable Time

The Day of the Lord Jesus

The Christian Era
- h) This passage brings up the message of Jesus' rejection by Israel – prophesied by Simeon in 2:34
- Jesus was rejected by Bethlehem at his birth in 2:8.
- In 4:28-30 he is rejected by his home town at the beginning of his Mission.
- He will be rejected by the leaders of Israel and killed at the end of his Mission.
- NB** Jesus, the Word Incarnate, went to his own town and his own people first
- to proclaim his ministry but they rejected him: cf. Jn 1:9-11 cf. 2:33-35
- "He went to his own, but his own received him not": Jn 1:11

Reasons given for rejection: they knew his family!... and connections. But that's not all: In 4:24 Jesus told them an unpleasant truth: **"I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country."**

Jesus also gave them two examples of **God reaching out to Gentiles** when His own people were unbelieving and unfaithful... and explains that **their** unbelief is the same as their ancestors!

e.g. Elijah went to the widow of Zarephath, a Sidonian town in the 9<sup>th</sup> century **1 Kgs 17:7-16**  
Elisha healed Naaman, the leper: **2 Kgs ch 5**. These prophets were rejected also!

- (NB) This man and woman were non-Jews... Gentiles, hated by Jews but God's prophets did not despise them. Jesus' salvation will go to the Gentiles **after the final rejection by the Jews**, also.

The stones will cry out! Acts 13:44-14:17 shows that this happened to the Church later...

- (NB) The reaction of the people of Nazareth was not friendly.
- they tried to kill Jesus at the very beginning of his Ministry! Cf. Herod and the Leaders Matt 2:13-21
  - the hostility of Israel is declared from the beginning.

**What is the problem?** The good, decent, upright people of Nazareth did not want to be told that they needed a Saviour... and that this Saviour was the young man down the road!!

- They enjoyed the gracious words from his lips, but were not open to be challenged to repent or change their ways.
- Their rejection turned to fury to an attempt on his life **but** 4:14 with the Power of God Jesus slipped away to continue the Father's affairs Lk 2:49-50... **an unrecognized miracle**.

- (NB) This whole scene is a prophetic forecast of the entire Mission.

- (1) Jesus was favourably received at first.
  - (2) The people listened... accepted the miracles, but refused to change their ways.
  - (3) Gradually they turned against him as he refused to be a political Messiah.
  - (4) The rejection of the leaders and Nation turned to fury and they killed him in the end.
- BUT just as here "HE slipped away" by the power of God and returned in the Resurrection...
  - They did not intend to glorify him, but his Death **was** the instrument of his Glorification in Resurrection and Ascension and Crowning as King of the Universe... **Cosmocrator!**

### Conclusion

The text Jesus used was a Summary of His Mission. From now on "the sword of division" will divide those who accept him from those who reject him... a cause of great suffering for Jesus' Mother as we will see. The reaction was a forecast of Israel's response!

### Another Point to consider

Another aspect of the rejection of Jesus at Nazareth –

- The Nazarenes were mostly Essenes... and at odds with the Temple priests.
- The Synagogue was owned and run by the Jerusalem authorities.
  - this is the first run-in with those authorities. They would influence the people.

**Why?** Jesus spoke like an Essene! The Essenes used Isaiah to proclaim the Messiah.

- Jesus claimed **to be that Messiah!!**

**JESUS AT CAPERNAUM:** 4:31-37 cf. 4:14

Here Jesus also spoke in the synagogue on the Sabbath – just as Paul did in Acts 3:14 etc. As in Nazareth he got a favourable response, but this time "his teaching made a deep impression on them because he spoke with authority" Lk 4:32.

This, of course highlighted the identity problem: **"Who is he?"**