

# A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

## An Expositional Study of **The Gospel According to Luke** **Chapter 4- Luke 4:22-30**

### 44- The First Rejection of Jesus- Part 1

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August 30, 2009

#### **Luke 4:22-30**

When I was a small boy- we lived in Dallas, Texas, in University Park- a very upscale and exclusive neighborhood, and we lived right across the street from a Jewish Rabbi named "Klein". His daughter's name was Joyce, and she and I used to play together as 5, 6, and 7 year olds. And I thought that she was a fairly normal girl except around Christmas time when she told me that she didn't get a new toy for Christmas because her family did not celebrate Christmas- but she got a new toy a few days or a few weeks before Christmas during a Jewish celebration called "Hannakah".

After I moved away and was saved- I returned to Dallas in 1989, right after the death of my daughter from leukemia, and I met with Rabbi Klein- who had gone through the ranks and was now the High Priest over the entire Southwest United States. Rabbi Klein was a very gracious man, very intelligent, a historian, and a very serious-minded man who asked to meet with me because we shared something in common, and that is a belief in the inerrancy of the Bible. And we both take God very seriously and take His Word seriously. And it's true of this rabbi, a very gracious man, very knowledgeable man. He cares about righteousness. He cares about the honor and the glory of God, and he's given his life to serve God.

And I greatly enjoyed our time together and I believe we'll have more time in the future, and I look forward to that. After I returned- I was telling someone about my meeting with the rabbi and their comment was, *"Why does he not believe in Jesus as Messiah and Savior?"* And the answer to that question obviously is a very important answer. And the answer is that people who don't believe when they

know the facts don't believe for only one reason- it's always the same reason- it's never different- it's always the same. When people know about Jesus Christ and they know the facts of Jesus Christ and they don't believe- there's only one reason why they don't believe.

Everybody who rejects Jesus Christ as Messiah and Savior rejects Him for the very *same* reason and what that reason is will become clear to you this morning by the very Words of Jesus Himself in the text of our message.

This passage is one of those gripping and powerful portions of the Bible. Jesus is the Speaker and the Teacher in this passage, as you know from our study last week. His Words captured the moment in a way that was shocking, and they still grip us with their power and their force. So let's go back to verse 16 in Luke 4 and pick up the scene where it really begins.

#### **Luke 4:16-21**

**16 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.**

**17 And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written,**

**18 “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,**

**19 TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.”**

**20 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.**

**21 And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”**

Now just imagine coming to Church this morning and expecting to hear me preach, and all of a sudden- the Lord Jesus Christ appears in Person to tell you that He has come to fulfill all the prophecies of His Second Coming, all the prophecies of the Glory of His Kingdom of Salvation on earth. Imagine that you had come this morning and Jesus was standing here in this pulpit to tell you that the time was now for the fulfillment of all prophecies and it would begin with Him taking us

to Heaven in the glories of the Rapture to the homes that He has prepared for us there.

Well that's something like the Jews in the Nazareth synagogue experienced that day. They had been all their lives to the synagogue, and they had heard reading after reading of the Torah, the Law, and the Haftarah, and the prophets, and sermon after sermon on Sabbath after Sabbath, year after year, and they had heard many sermons about the Messiah and they had read many Scriptures about His coming. But all of a sudden on this Sabbath Day around the year 28 A.D.- the Messiah was actually there. And all throughout those many years- they had gathered to hear the Law and the Prophets, and the Law and the Prophets had all spoken about the Messiah.

They had come to the synagogue which, as Philo- ancient historian called it, was a house of instruction where the Scripture was read and explained. Many, many times the text was Messianic in nature, and many times the text was read and explained and their hearts were filled with the hope of the Messiah's arrival.

But on this particular day- the Messiah Himself is the Reader and He is the Expositor, Messiah the Son of God Himself is the *mafter*- the one who concludes a reading of the Torah, to whom the *chazan* or the cantor hands the haftarah or the reading that comes right after the Torah reading.

Now it's true the reputation of Jesus had been growing, and that's why they were so excited that He was going to speak in their synagogue that day. **Luke 4:14&15** tell us about this Man:

**14 ... and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district.**

**15 And He *began* teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all.**

So Jesus' reputation was gathering by the time He came to this synagogue in Nazareth where He launches His year and a half Galilean ministry. He has already been ministering almost a year in the south- down in Judea, with just a few visits to Galilee. So the word is beginning to grow about this Man named Jesus. And here He comes on this particular day to His own boyhood synagogue, and if, as historians tell us, the town of Nazareth had about 20,000 people in it- it would have had a lot of synagogues. They were like local churches in towns today, there were many synagogues scattered all around and this was

His boyhood synagogue with all the familiar faces there. And Jesus would have gone into that synagogue and seen all His foster aunts and uncles, and His half-brothers and half-sisters, and His foster cousins and distant relatives and friends and neighbors. And they were all the familiar faces of His life there.

But this was a different day because now Jesus is taking the position of the Messiah and declared to them that He was the fulfillment of all Messianic prophecy in the OT. He was the long-awaited Anointed One; He was the Savior of the world.

And so far- Luke's Story of Salvation has been a positive one. All the way through these four chapters of Luke's Gospel- everything has been very positive. And, of course, as I read in verse 15, Jesus was at this point being praised by all and even down in verse 22- all the people were still speaking well of Him. So the initial response to His speaking in the synagogue was very positive. Everything was going very well. But that is all about to change

Now our journey through this Gospel record has almost taken us through four chapters. And we've been exploring this Book for months and months- 44 weeks- which is almost one full year so far and everything has been very positive.

The tapestry of testimony from angels, and from Gabriel, and from the angels that gave testimony to the shepherds in the field, and the rich testimony from godly men and women like Zacharias and Elizabeth and Joseph and Mary and Simeon and Anna, and the testimony of John the Baptist, and even the testimony from God the Father- and it's all been very positive up to now.

There's just one little negative statement in all these chapters up to here, and that's in chapter 2 verse 34, and those searching words by Simeon, that old man in the temple, who said to Mary,

**34 ... Behold, this *Child* is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed—**

**35 and a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.**

...now that one single statement was really the only negative remark in all these chapters- that some would fall and that a sword would pierce through Mary's soul.

And that prophecy begins to come true in the text that is before us today. Let's follow the story. Pick it up where we left off last week in **Luke 4:22:**

**22 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?"**

**23 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.'"**

**24 And He said, "Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown.**

**25 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;**

**26 and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to arephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.**

**27 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."**

**28 And all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things;**

**29 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.**

**30 But passing through their midst, He went His way.**

**31 And He came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and He was teaching them on the Sabbath;**

**32 and they were amazed at His teaching, for His message was with authority.**

Now this is a completely different reaction of people than anything that we have seen in 44 weeks isn't it? We haven't seen anything like this through all these chapters during all these months. So what exactly is happening here? What went wrong? Jesus' ministry began all so peaceful and wonderful.

And Jesus just finished 40 days of suffering and fasting and temptation where instead of being weakened- was, in fact, strengthened by angels, and then He begins His Ministry, and great fame and acclaim and praise begins to follow Him and everybody wants to hear

Him and everybody is glad to see Him, and everybody is thrilled that Jesus is coming to this synagogue that morning to speak, and then He stands up and gives His first expositional sermon out of Isaiah 61 as He reads a section of Isaiah's 700 year old prophecy, and then gives the correct meaning of what God said on that passage.

And this brings to mind the great need that we have today of preaching expositionally- that is preaching and teaching the Word of God so that we may ask and then answer three questions about each and every verse in the Bible:

1. What did God the Holy Ghost actually say in this verse or passage?
2. What did God the Holy Ghost mean by that verse or passage when He moved upon the holy writers to pen those words down?
3. Specifically how may we who live in the 21st Century apply this Divine Truth to our daily lives?

The great need of expositional preaching comes from a full and serious understanding of two verses of Scripture that the Apostle Paul wrote to his son in the Faith- a young Pastor named Timothy, found in **2Timothy 3:16&17**- so, let's turn to that passage this morning and read this together.

**16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;**  
**17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.**

Now let's break this passage down piece by piece. First of all- the Bible says here that "all Scripture" or in other words- "all of the holy writing", all of the Books that were inspired by God the Holy Spirit- those Books are labeled by the Apostle Paul as being something called "Scripture".

So the very first thing that we need to do in order that we may fully comprehend this passage in **2Timothy**- we must define what Books are inspired and which Books are not inspired so that we may know just what is "Scripture".

And the solid factual and certain answer to that question is 66- there are sixty- six Books in all the earth that were given by inspiration

of God that have been assembled together in one location called The Holy Bible- for our convenience- and individually and collectively those 66 separate Books are called "Scripture".

There are 66 Books- not 84, 66- not 39, 66- not 27- but 66 separate Books, written by 40 different men, who wrote them over a 1500 year time frame.

And beginning Thursday night, September 3, at 7pm- we will study just why there are 66 Books in the Holy Bible and not 84, and how we know that we may trust those 66 Books as being fully inspired by God. You need this class and I think it is around 20 bucks- so you need to sign up and get your workbook today.

So that is what "Scripture" is- every single Word of all 66 Books of the Holy Bible- containing both the OT and the NT.

Now look at the very next phrase that Paul wrote to Timothy:

### **All Scripture is inspired by God**

So we see that the Scriptures were given. They were given "**by God**" to Man. So the Scriptures were not found, they were not created, they were not bought- but every single Word of all 66 Books were "given". And from this we can see that Scripture is not the invention of Man, it was not the product of religious geniuses- Scripture was not given to Man by other men- but the Scriptures are a gift from God to Man.

But just *how* were the Scriptures "given" to Man from God? Did they float down on a cloud out of Heaven? Were they brought to earth by angels? Were they hidden in the depths of the sea? Well, we see next in **2Timothy 3** that Paul describes a very special "method" by which the Scriptures were given to Man. And that "process" or that "method" or that "vehicle" is called "inspiration". Paul says "**is inspired**", or by the means of, or by the process of, or by the vehicle of this thing called "inspiration".

Now the word that was translated here into English as "inspiration" comes from the Greek word *theopneustos*- which means: *breath* or *to breathe*. And it is from this Greek word that we get the English words- "pneumonia" and "pneumatic"- words that have to do with "air" or "breath".

But breathing comes in two ways- we *inhale* to breathe in and we also *exhale* to breathe out - and both inhaling and exhaling are what we call breathing. But what is interesting is that this Greek word, *theopneustos*, that Paul used in this verse is that it is very narrow in its definition and only means: *to exhale* or *to breathe out*. So God gave the Scriptures to man by literally breathing them out.

Now look at the next two words of this verse that say,

**by God**

So from this we can see that all of Scripture- every single Word of all 66 Books- were a gift from God to Man, and they were given to Man by way of a very special process or method called "inspiration"- or by God literally *exhaling* these words- and now we see that it was God Himself Who did the "exhaling" or the "breathing out".

Now I want you to carefully notice that Paul is *not* saying in this verse that the Words are simply *inspiring*- although they certainly are inspiring. These Words absolutely do inspire us more than anything else can inspire us- but many things in life inspire us.

We can be inspired by a sunset- but the sunset was not breathed out by God. We can be inspired by an act of courage - but the act of courage was not breathed out by God. We can be inspired by a song or a sermon- but neither the song nor the sermon were breathed out by God. We can even be inspired by an athlete that performs his sport brilliantly- but while we may be inspired by that performance- we must acknowledge that the performance by that athlete was not breathed out by God. Scripture and Scripture alone is the only commodity in the history of the world that has ever or that will ever be breathed out by God.

And it is also important to notice that Paul is also *not* saying that the *men* themselves- who wrote these Words are inspired- but Paul is saying here that it is the Words *themselves* that was given to us by and through the method or the process called "inspiration", or that these Words were literally exhaled by the very Mouth of Almighty God.

Now, we do know that these men who penned down the Words of Scripture that were exhaled by the very Mouth of God were indeed very special men and whom God did indeed move upon. Now hold your



finger right here in **2Timothy 3** and flip over to the right to **2Peter 1:21** and read what the Apostle Peter taught about this.

**For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.**

Now the word prophecy" that Peter uses here- means: *that which is prophesied*", and to prophesy in this case means: *to preach*. So the word "prophecy" as used here in **2Peter 1** means: *that which is preached*, or in other words- *the Scriptures themselves*.

So Peter is saying here that the Scriptures did not come in old time by the creative genius of Man or through Man's own fleshly intellect or through Man's own human reasoning- but these holy men of God- the 40 writers of sacred Scripture- were "moved" by the Holy Ghost.

Now when you look up the word that was translated here as "moved", you see that this meant: *to carry something along as a sailboat is "carried along" through the water by the wind*.

So the men were not inspired- the men were "moved" or "carried along" by the Holy Spirit. But it was the actual Words of Scripture themselves that were inspired or which God exhaled out to these men.

Now please flip back to **2Timothy 3:16**:

**All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;**

So God moved upon 40 writers or supernaturally carried them along and then God breathed out or exhaled the individual Words of Scripture which these men then wrote down for us.

Now this means by default that the Words of Scripture are unique, they are special, they are set aside, and they are different from all other words given to all other men by all other processes and written down in all other books. These Words are inspired; these Words were God breathed; these Words were exhaled by the very Mouth of God.

And by extension- we can also see that inspiration carries with it certain other qualities that we cannot avoid or miss. Since every single Word of Scripture is God breathed- that also means that every single Word of Scripture is six other things that you will want to write down.

The Words of Scripture- all of these special and unique Words that came by way of this process called inspiration are also:

1 Inerrant	<i>Does not</i> contain any error in whole or part.
2 Infallible	<i>Cannot</i> contain any error in whole or part.
3 Authoritative	Has the final power to convict of sin and bind the Conscience of every human being.
4 Relevant	Applicable for every generation under any Economic, educational, governmental, or technological system.
5 Eternal	Everlasting, cannot be obsolete.
6 Sufficient	Finished, complete, and finalized.

And Paul is telling Timothy that every single Word in all 66 Books are profitable- they are valuable, and collectively and rightly interpreted- all of the Words of all 66 Books are the root and the foundation of three very specific things:

- ✓ All Church Doctrine
- ✓ All Reproof and Correction
- ✓ All Instruction in Righteousness or in other words- all teaching that is done in the Church

So there can be no Doctrine, no teaching, no belief, no position on any subject developed by the Christian Church that is true that can come from any other source other than from the Scriptures and from the Scriptures alone. And that also means that there is no Reproof or Correction that is true and valuable that can come from any other source other than from the inspired Words of the 66 Books of Scripture and from those Words alone. And that also means that there can be no Teaching, no Instruction in Righteousness in the Church of the Lord Christ that God authorizes and that is honoring to Jesus Christ and that is proper and correct except that that Teaching comes from the Scriptures and from the Scriptures alone.

And there is a Latin phrase that was coined by the Reformers of the 16th Century that *summarizes* what Paul told Timothy here in **2Timothy 3**, and that phrase is "Sola Scriptura", and it means: *from the Scriptures alone*.

And as simple as that is, and as clear as that is- this one single phrase, "Sola Scriptura", or "from the Scriptures alone", is so profound and so powerful- that it was the *material* cause of the Protestant Reformation 500 years ago. Because Sola Scriptura does not just mean that all Church Doctrine, Reproof, Correction, and Teaching comes from Scripture- most *anybody* can say that- but Sola Scriptura means that these four things are to come *only* from Scripture and from Scripture *alone*.

And that means that no Church Doctrine, Reproof, Correction, and Teaching may come from any other source like individual prophecy, these four things may not come from a "word" that somebody says that they got directly from God, they cannot come from an angelic visitation, they cannot come from a personal experiences or private interpretations of the Bible, or from dreams, or visions. And as powerful as that is- it doesn't stop there.

Because Sola Scriptura also means that Church Doctrine, Reproof, Correction, and Teaching may not come from human wisdom, nor can they come from human reasoning or human logic, and these four things may not come from papal bulls, writs, edicts, encyclicals, or other writings by any human being. And Sola Scriptura also means that we do not develop Doctrine or Reproof, or Correction, or any Teaching from Church Councils or the rulings of Bishops, popes, Pastors or Elders.

And because this very strict and narrow definition of what Sola Scriptura means categorically and unapologetically rejected all of the man-made Doctrines and Teachings of people throughout the centuries- the Roman Church of the 16th Century was so outraged at the gaul that some people would actually take Paul's admonition to Timothy seriously- that they issued an "anathema" or an eternal damnation on anyone who teaches or who believes or who upholds the concept of Sola Scriptura- which is the clear teaching of the Apostle Paul in **2Timothy 3**.

But I am sad to report to you this morning that that great and noble effort by the Reformers to repent and return to the Authority and the Sufficiency of Scripture 500 years ago did not settle the issue because in our day- we are again being bombarded with a whole army of little "vicars" who believe and teach that they hear directly from God, and that the so called revelation that God gives to them not only supersedes 2000 years of Church history- but these people actually believe that the so called revelation that God gives to them today

supersedes the Holy Scriptures themselves, and because of this massive departure from the Authority and Sufficiency of Scripture- the current state of the Christian Church after all the victories won by the Reformers 500 years ago- is in worse shape today than it was when Rome darkened the word of God and kept the people in ignorance.

And I declare unto you this morning that The Covenant of Peace Church boldly and loudly and proudly upholds and celebrates both the spirit and the letter of that great rallying cry of "Sola Scriptura!" that God used over 500 years ago to ignite the greatest revival in the history of the world, and as long as I am alive and the Pastor of this Church - and as long as God is our great Help- we trust that we will always be able to join our voices with the Reformers who blazed the trail back to the Word of God- as we too cry out in our day- "Sola Scriptura!"

Now you may think that all of this is just a bunch of gobbly goop and has nothing to do with any of the important issues that we all face today. But I want to show you by the help of God just how important what I just said is.

Since the issue is the Word of God- since that is the issue- then it becomes paramount for you and I to understand what God has said. You see, dear friends, the issue in the Church of Jesus is not whatever is popular, the issue is not whatever is the latest social problem of our day, the issue is not what everybody else is talking about or whatever most people want to hear and tickles their ears. The issue is what did God Almighty- the Owner and the Creator of the Universe say and what was faithfully recorded for us in the pages of Holy Scriptures- that is the issue.

And that has always been the issue. Please turn with me to **Genesis 3:1:**

**Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"**

Now what are the very first words out of satan's mouth here? He was challenging what God had said. Satan told Eve- *"Is that what God said? Are you sure that's what God said, Eve?"* You see, what Adam said or thought, or what Eve said or thought was not the issue with satan. It was strictly what God had said that was the issue. Satan has

a problem with the Words that came out of God's Mouth- he always has and he always will- because those are the only words that matter.

Now look down at verses **3-5**:

**3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’”**

**4 The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die!**

**5 For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”**

Now satan is not only *questioning* what God has said- he is actually *contradicting* and rejecting what God has said. God told Adam back in **Genesis 2:17**:

**But from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.**

God said the very day that you eat this tree- you will die. But satan told Eve, *“Naaah- you're not going to die. Go ahead and eat this fruit- it will make you wise. In fact, God knows that, and He is so mean and so restrictive and so narrow minded that He doesn't want you to eat it because when you eat this fruit- you will become a god yourself.”*

So the issue of "what God said" is what caused the Fall of Man so I pray that you can see that knowing and understanding and being obedient to what God has said is the single most important issue of our day because we live in a day dear friends when the very same thing that satan told Eve here in the Garden is exactly what you can hear taught by some of the most popular preachers of our day on the Hay, Wood, and Stubble Television Network.

For somebody to challenge what Scripture says today is not called blasphemy- it is called "revelation". And for somebody to teach contrary to what God has said in His Word is not called rebellion- it is called "thinking outside the box".

In fact - it is common today for well-meaning people in almost any Church to say that God speaks directly to them, and that God reveals things directly to them, and they actually believe and trust in what God supposedly says directly to them, and what God supposedly reveals to

them more than they believe and trust the Bible itself- and that is not being spiritual dear friends- that is simply being deceived.

It is not an accident that with the rise of these self-proclaimed and unaccountable prophets and apostles and false teachers has come a corresponding *decline* in genuine Biblical knowledge. And this decline in solid true Biblical knowledge is so profound and so wide spread that the visible Church is now filled with the very same sins and the very same social problems and the very same confusion about fundamental Truth that have always plague the pagan world.

And these problems and these sins can be directly tied to the fact that the people of God no longer know what God has said in the Holy Scriptures, and because they no longer know what God has said- they are not obedient to what God has said- but they are working very hard to dance to the tune that is being played by the modern pied pipers who are leading the sheep to slaughter.

And it is not an accident that with the rise of statements like "*God spoke to me*" or "*God showed me this*" or "*the Spirit told me that*" or "*God appeared to me*" has come the greatest decline of godliness and personal holiness in the lives of the people of the Church since the Upper Room.

God's people may dance around the Church and fall on the floor and shout aloud- but they are having a very difficult time in actually walking with God in humble obedience because they no longer know God's Word.

Jesus' very first sermon here in **Luke 4** was all about what God had said. That is all that Jesus was interested in, and that is all that we should be interested in. I may love you, and I may enjoy hearing what you have to say, but when it comes to eternal matters, when it comes to my soul and my eternity- what you say and what you think and what you imagine God said to you is absolutely worthless to me. Your words and your revelation and your dreams and visions and your personal experiences and your angelic visitations do not hold a candle to what God has breathed out in the pages of Holy Scripture- they are not even in the same universe.

I need to know what God said and I need to know what God meant by what He said and I need to know just how to apply that Divine Truth to my life today. Faith does not come to me in any other way other than by hearing the Word of God.

Walking in the Spirit, and praying in the Spirit, or singing in the Spirit is not speaking in an unknown tongue- that is not what that means. Walking and praying and singing in the Spirit is nothing more nor less than walking and praying and singing in humble submission to the authority of Scripture- not acting like a nut that needs medication- and you cannot pray or sing or walk in the Spirit of God if you do not know what God has said in His Word.

Listen to me. The Word of God is the issue, and it was expositional preaching- the line upon line, precept upon precept preaching of the inspired Word of God- that brought about this very first rejection of Jesus Christ that we read about this morning. It was Sola Scriptura that angered these Jews. It was Scripture alone that brought about their desire to kill Jesus; it was the fact that Jesus fully and accurately and rightly expounded what Isaiah wrote 700 years earlier that would have caused the destruction of Jesus immediately after His very first sermon had He not been God and been able to supernaturally remove Himself from them. That is how important Sola Scriptura is, and that is how important expositional preaching is.

In other words- nobody ever got angry with Jesus because He fed the multitudes or because He healed the sick or because He raised the dead. Nobody got mad at the fact that Jesus prayed or that He opened blind eyes or made the lame to walk. Nobody had any problem with Jesus being born in a manger or living a sinless life and dying on the Cross.

But it is what Jesus *said* that caused such an uproar; His Word bothered them; His explanation of all that God had said in the OT through the real prophets that troubled their hearts and made people so angry at a sinless, spotless Lamb- that they eventually beat Him nearly to death and hung Him on a tree.

Make no mistake about it- dear friends- many more people would follow after Jesus and love Him if only they did *not* know what He said and what He taught and Who He was.

Now why is that? What actually happened here in the very first rejection of Jesus?

In this passage- we see that Jesus read **Isaiah 61:1** and part of verse 2- and then He explained, that on that very day- Isaiah's prophecy had been fulfilled- or in other words- Jesus was saying, *"I am the One Whom Isaiah was talking about here- I am the fulfillment of all the OT*

*Messianic Promises*". And then Jesus proceeds to exposit the passage- and we know that He did that because verse 21 says,

**And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."**

... that was not all that He said - but that is how Luke says that Jesus *began* to speak to the people- by giving the people that day the full exposition of those 700 year old OT passages and showed the people just what they really meant and how He fulfilled them.

Now we need to keep in mind that for 700 years- nobody on earth understood what these verse in **Isaiah** meant. Nobody rightly interpreted the full meaning of Isaiah's prophecy until this day. Priests and rabbis and scholars and teachers and lawyers had debated and discussed and pondered and questioned these verses for 7 centuries and nobody had ever come to the correct conclusion of what they meant until this very day in this synagogue.

And we also need to know that ever since that day, from the very moment that Jesus gave the correct exposition of Isaiah's prophecy- those verses in **Isaiah** have never been able to be interpreted any *other* way other than the way that Jesus interpreted them here. Anyone who reads and who preaches and who teaches or who studies these two verses in **Isaiah 61** must come to the very same meaning that Jesus gives in this passage here in Luke- or else their conclusion and meaning is wrong and not from God.

Once Jesus assigned the correct interpretation to these verses in **Isaiah**- nobody can ever read these passages and get any other meaning and still be correct. This is an example of the true Power and Anointing of the Holy Spirit- it enables you to correctly understand what God has already said. And this is the ministry that the Apostles received from Jesus Christ in the first century- to correctly and fully interpret the meaning of OT passages by and through the Anointing and Power of the Holy Spirit.

And once these Apostles assigned a meaning or interpretation to any OT verse or passage and that interpretation was recorded for us somewhere in the 27 Books of the NT- that is what it meant- and any other interpretation made by any other human being for any other reason that in any way differs from that interpretation given by the



Apostles or their designees and has been recorded for us in the NT is just flat out wrong and should not be trusted or repeated by the believer in our day.

Nobody has this particular type of Power and Anointing in our day. Because every OT verse and Passage that needed to be interpreted and assigned a meaning to has been- which is what the NT is all about. You see the OT is where God *gives* the Promises and the NT is where God *fulfills* those Promises in Jesus Christ. So you cannot fully and correctly understand the OT without at least a working knowledge of the NT. And you cannot fully appreciate what the NT is teaching- unless you have at least a working knowledge of the OT.

To be ignorant of what God Promised means that you will miss what God said and did in fulfilling those Promises in Jesus Christ, and to be ignorant of how God fulfilled those OT Promises in, by, and through the Lord Jesus Christ is to miss what God did and said in giving those Promises in the OT.

Jesus was saying that the Messiah was there in their midst and they were hearing Him speak in their ears. And He told them He had come to fulfill all of the Messianic prophecies in Himself- Personally. He had come to bring the favorable year of the Lord, which means the era of Salvation, and, so, today is the day of Salvation as the Apostle Paul put it in writing to the Corinthians or in other words- the "day" or the "time" or the "dispensation" of Salvation had come by and in and through Jesus Christ.

It was here; it was fulfilled. Jesus was telling these Jews on that day in that synagogue that He was the Savior Who would bring the Salvation that the OT prophets had promised many hundreds and thousands of years earlier.

The fulfillment of the collected 39 Books of the OT was standing in front of them and they were hearing His voice and looking at His face. He was there. And with Him and Him alone came Salvation to the poor, and the prisoners, and the blind, and the outcasts, the distressed, the oppressed, the downtrodden.

What did that sermon that He preached actually mean? Well, that's what I told you last week. Salvation is available to all of those of you who have been so graced by God as to be able to confess your spiritual poverty, who have been empowered to confess your spiritual

bondage, who have been enabled to confess your spiritual darkness, and who have received Mercy to confess your spiritual defeat.

Many times the preacher had stood up in that very synagogue and said, *"The blessed hour of the Messiah is going to come at some point in the future."* Many times the preacher had said, *"The people who are eyewitnesses of Messiah Himself will be greatly blessed."* Many times the preacher had said, *"The eyes who are honored to look at the sight of Messiah are of all eyes most blessed, and the ears who are honored to hear His voice of all hears most blessed."* But on this day - that was them. They were the blessed, the blessed of all the nations, the blessed of all generations, it was in that generation that the Messiah came, and out of all the people and generations of all the human race- that blessed group of people were highly favored because it was to them that the Messiah came- to that small little insignificant group of Jews who were beat down in subjection to pagan Rome in that small town in that small dusty little nation.

To them had come the Messiah of God; to them had come the Savior of the world with the glorious Message of Salvation- a Message of spiritual Riches, a Message of eternal Forgiveness, a Message of eternal Life, a Message of a great and powerful Release from their sins and of the dreadful Wrath of God.

He was now present, He was now in their midst. What a day! No Sabbath had ever begun so wondrously and no Sabbath ever ended so tragically.

It's actually so shocking that it rivets you to the page to understand just how in the world this could have happened? How did it turn so badly? How could Jesus let it happen? At first His Words settled well with the people. Please look again at **Luke 4:22**:

**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?"**

Now this doesn't mean that they all believed in Him as the Messiah- no, it just means that the buzz was positive and was electrifying and it rippled through that packed synagogue. It was positive. They were speaking well of Him. But just what exactly was behind all that well speaking?

Well, they were in awe of the gracious Words which were falling from His Lips. I mean, there may have been *some* things that they were wondering about in His Message. Because it kinda sounded like Jesus was saying that He was indeed the Messiah- but that couldn't be true- so maybe they just didn't hear him correctly.

And some of them no doubt were wondering why Jesus just stopped reading right in the middle of **Isaiah 61:2**. Jesus had correctly quoted Isaiah and said that He had come to bring in the "acceptable year of the Lord", but then He just stopped reading and sat down and didn't finish quoting verse 2 which also said that the Messiah would also bring the day of vengeance of our God.

So why did Jesus leave the vengeance out of **Isaiah 61:2**? Some of them probably were wondering about that. And let me be very honest with you. The Jews hated the Romans and they were very anxious for the Messiah's coming so He would destroy these pagan Gentile idol makers. They literally hated their oppressors and it must have bothered some of them that Jesus stopped and didn't say anything about the day of vengeance. After all, even John the Baptist had said, *"When the Messiah comes He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with...what?...fire, an unquenchable fire of judgment."* So, even John had talked about that.

In fact, John himself was greatly perplexed because when he was put in prison by that pagan, wretched, wicked, vile man named Herod, John honestly thought that the Messiah would come and destroy Herod, and bring the vengeance of God on Herod, and open the prison doors and let him out. And when Jesus didn't do that, when, in fact, Jesus didn't take vengeance on any of the ungodly people, whether they were Romans or whether they were apostate Jews, when there was none of that going on at all- John became very concerned and eventually became so confused that he sent his own disciples to Jesus to ask Him if He really was the Messiah or not- because John saw no vengeance of the evil ones.

But Christ had no intention of overturning the power of Herod. He had no intention of kicking open the prison doors, or of wreaking havoc and Divine Vengeance on the ungodly. All of that was going to happen after He returns to earth the second time- but today - the first coming of Jesus is all about the "Day of Salvation."

So I ask you this morning- *"Are you saved? Have you been born from above? Do you know God's Word? Do you love God's Word? Are you obedient to God's Word? Are you captivated by the emotional high of so called 'fresh revelations' and 'fresh fire', or are you earnestly contending for the very same Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints?"*

Let's come and pray

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.