

## Lesson 7 Luke 4:14-5:16 Galilean Ministry, Call of first Apostles

In our last lesson. Jesus was baptized by John. We read a genealogy of Jesus. We also saw how Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, was able to rise above the temptations of the devil, after a period of fasting in the desert. Now the public ministry of Jesus begins.

**1. Jesus went on a retreat in the desert which included solitude, fasting and prayer before he began his earthly ministry. When you know you are being challenged to begin a new and difficult phase in your life, what can you do to prepare yourself for the task?**

**2. Read Luke 4:14-21 and footnotes. Where and how does Jesus begin his ministry? *What do we learn about Jesus in these verses?***

**Luke 4:14-21** Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region. <sup>15</sup> He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all. <sup>16</sup> He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went **according to his custom** into the synagogue **on the sabbath day. He stood up to read** <sup>17</sup> and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, <sup>19</sup> and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."

<sup>20</sup> Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. <sup>21</sup> He said to them, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

**3. Read Luke 4:22-30. What is the initial reaction of the people to Jesus' reading of Isaiah? Why did their attitude change?**

**Luke 4:22-30** <sup>22</sup> And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They also asked, "**Isn't this the son of Joseph?**" <sup>23</sup> He said to them, "Surely you will quote me this proverb, '**Physician, cure yourself,**' and say, '**Do here in your native place the things that we heard were done in Capernaum.**'" <sup>24</sup> And he said, "Amen, I say to you, **no prophet is accepted in his own native place.**" <sup>25</sup> Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land. <sup>26</sup> It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon. <sup>27</sup> Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." <sup>28</sup> When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury. <sup>29</sup> They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong. <sup>30</sup> But he passed through the midst of them and went away.

**4. In 1 Kings 17:7-16 the widow from Zarephath (a non-Jew) was saved from starvation by *Elijah* because of her faith in him. In 2 Kings 5:1-18 the prophet *Elisha* cures a man, Naaman from Aram, of leprosy (also not a Jew). When Jesus recalls these stories, what is he inferring about himself and about the saving power of God? See 4:22-30.**

**5. What happened in Capernaum? See verse 23 above and Luke 4:31-40 (on the next page). In which verses do we see Jesus as *a teacher* or a proclaimer of the Word of God?**

## 6. In which verses in Luke 4:31-41 do we see Jesus as a *healer and exorcist*?

**Luke 4:31-41** <sup>31</sup> Jesus then went down to **Capernaum**, a town of Galilee. He taught them on the sabbath, <sup>32</sup> and they were astonished at his teaching because he spoke with authority. <sup>33</sup> In the synagogue there was a man with the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out in a loud voice, <sup>34</sup> “Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” <sup>35</sup> Jesus rebuked him and said, “Be quiet! Come out of him!” Then the demon threw the man down in front of them and came out of him without doing him any harm. <sup>36</sup> They were all amazed and said to one another, “What is there about his word? **For with authority and power** he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out.” <sup>37</sup> And news of him spread everywhere in the surrounding region. <sup>38</sup> After he left the synagogue, he entered the house of Simon. Simon’s mother-in-law was afflicted with a severe fever, and they interceded with him about her. <sup>39</sup> He stood over her, rebuked the fever, and it left her. **She got up immediately and waited on them.** <sup>40</sup> At sunset, all who had people sick with various diseases brought them to him. He laid his hands on each of them and cured them. <sup>41</sup> And demons also came out from many, shouting, “You are the Son of God.” But he rebuked them and did not allow them to speak because they knew that he was the Messiah.

## 7. Read Luke 5:1-11. What type of miracle is this? Who were the first apostles called to follow Jesus? Is it probable that the events in 4:38-41 made it easier to believe in Jesus?

**Luke 5:1-11** <sup>1</sup> While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. <sup>2</sup> He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. <sup>4</sup> After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” <sup>5</sup> Simon said in reply, “Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets.” <sup>6</sup> When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. <sup>7</sup> They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that they were in danger of sinking. <sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.” <sup>9</sup> For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, <sup>10</sup> and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” <sup>11</sup> When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.

## 8. Read Luke 5:12-16. What type of miracle is this? Did the man keep the miracle to himself as Jesus had requested?

**Luke 5:12-16** <sup>12</sup> Now there was a man full of leprosy in one of the towns where he was; and when he saw Jesus, he fell prostrate, pleaded with him, and said, “Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean.” <sup>13</sup> Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, “I do will it. Be made clean.” And the leprosy left him immediately. <sup>14</sup> Then he ordered him not to tell anyone, but “Go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them.” <sup>15</sup> The report about him spread all the more, and great crowds assembled to listen to him and to be cured of their ailments, <sup>16</sup> but he would withdraw to deserted places to pray.

## 9. Briefly review what is revealed about Jesus in this lesson.