

# “The Tragedy of Lost Opportunity”

## Luke 4:14-30

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### I. Introduction

- A. The story of John Wesley (1703-1791) was known for his open-air preaching. His first outdoor sermon was on April 2, 1739, using Luke 4:18-19 as his text. He took the gospel to the common people and ended up hated and rejected by the established church of England.
  - 1. Jesus also took the gospel to the poor
  - 2. Luke passes over Christ’s first year of public ministry (found in John 1-4) and starts with Christ’s sermon and rejection in his home synagogue at Nazareth
  - 3. Why?
    - a) It reveals who Christ came to seek and to save
    - b) It also reveals how Christ will be rejected by His own people, Israel
    - c) It reveals that the gospel is “good news”
      - 1) “The acceptable year of the Lord” (v. 19)

### II. Jesus was Accepted (Luke 4:14-21)

- A. The setting (vv. 14-15)
  - 1. The power of the Spirit (v. 14)
    - a) Jesus and the Spirit, His humanity
  - 2. “A fame of Him” (v. 14)
  - 3. “He taught in their synagogues (v. 15)
  - 4. “Being glorified of all” (v. 15)
- B. Jesus enters the synagogue (v. 16)
  - 1. Jesus went to the synagogue as His custom was
- C. Jesus read the Scriptures (vv. 16b-19)
- D. Jesus began the sermon (vv. 20-21)
- E. What Jesus the Messiah came the first time to do (vv. 18-19)
  - 1. The Holy Spirit anointed Jesus to preach (v. 18)
    - a) The gospel to the poor (v. 18)
    - b) Heal the brokenhearted (v. 18)
      - 1) Only God can heal a broken heart
    - c) Deliverance to the captives (v. 18)
      - 1) Captive by sin
      - 2) Jesus set us free
      - 3) Illustration- Year of Jubilee
    - d) Recovering sight to the blind (v. 18)
      - 1) It’s spiritual
      - 2) (Acts 26:18)
    - e) Set at liberty them that are bruised (v. 18)
      - 1) It’s “broken,” “shattered,” or “crushed”
      - 2) By life’s circumstances, we see no way out of
      - 3) Jesus stepped in (Isaiah 61:2)
    - f) Jesus began the sermon (vv. 20-21)

### **III. Jesus Was Rejected** (Luke 4:22-29)

- A. The people react (v. 22)
  - 1. With amazement (v. 22a)
  - 2. With doubt (v. 22b)
- B. Jesus resumes His sermon (vv. 23-27)
  - 1. The lost opportunity
  - 2. Don't take your privileges for granted
  - 3. People who are brought up in church
- C. The people react (vv. 28-29)
  - 1. With murderous hatred
  - 2. Man's sinful heart (at enmity with God)
    - a) "He came unto his own, and his own received him not" (John 1:11)

### **IV. Jesus was Protected** (Luke 4:30)

### **V. Conclusion**

- A. It's still the acceptable year of the Lord
- B. Why Jesus came
  - 1. For the poor
  - 2. For the brokenhearted
  - 3. Set free the captives
  - 4. Sight for the blind
  - 5. The bruised
- C. Don't miss your opportunity
  - 1. The day of vengeance of God