



Correspondent's Corner

“No Prophet is Accepted in His own Country”

August, 2022

There are four times that the title statement of this article is found in the Bible. It is a quote of what Jesus said while he was in Nazareth. The statement is found in

Matthew 13:57 and in Mark 6:4 and in Luke 4:24 and in John 4:44. It is Luke that gives us the most detail of the context in which Jesus spoke these words. Luke 4:16-30 is where Luke writes of what happened on the day these words were said.

Prior to verse 16 in Luke 4:1-13 we read of when Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into a wilderness area. He went there to be tested of Satan for forty days and nights. At the end of that time in verses 12-13 we read the last thing said by Jesus to Satan at that time. The Lord said “It is said, you shall not tempt the Lord your God.” And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season. In verses 14-15, it is told that Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into the area of Galilee. It says that there went out a great fame of him through the entire region.

Jesus came into the town of Nazareth where he had been brought up. He had a custom of reading the scriptures in the synagogue on the Sabbath day. So he stood up to read from Isaiah 60:1-2 but he stopped at the end of the first phrase of verse 2, which is “to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord”. The next part of verse two reads “and the day of vengeance of our God.” This deliberate halting part way through this verse reminds us of John chapter three verses 16-17. In that chapter of John Jesus is speaking with Nicodemus and said to him “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world through him might be saved”. So Jesus stopped at the place in the prophecy of Isaiah before it spoke of vengeance or judgement.

In Luke 4:20 we read that Jesus closed the book and gave it back to the leader of the synagogue and sat down. All the people who heard Jesus read from Isaiah were looking intently at him. They wondered at the gracious words that Jesus spoke and asked the question, isn't this Joseph's son? They were astonished that Jesus of Nazareth was such a wonderful man.

Jesus then told them that they would reject him and his preaching. This is the point when Jesus said “Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country”. Then Jesus

reminded them of the days of Elijah when there was a famine because of Israel's sin. And God sent Elijah to a widow woman to help her in the time of the famine. Elijah was not appreciated in Israel. Then Jesus reminded them of the days of Elisha and how he healed Naaman of his leprosy but the Israelites rejected Elisha.

Then the people of Nazareth led Jesus to a cliff where they were going to throw him off but we read that he passed through them and went to Capernaum and preached there. It is amazing that Jesus was so rejected. He was either hated by those who couldn't see their need of a saviour or trusted as the one who died for their sins on the cross. Jesus loved us and gave himself for our sins by laying down his life for us.

Of course that is not the end. He is raised from the dead and lives in the power of an endless life. He is the hope for a struggling world of people who need to be reconciled to God through him.

Sincerely, *John Eggers*

P.S. Please feel free to respond to this article by using the contact form on the "Contact Us" page. I will respond, with no obligation on your part.