

Love: How do these devotions teach about the love of God and the love for one another?
Learn: What have you learned about where Jesus walked that helps you with where you walk?
Share: What key insights have you learned this week on how to share your faith with others?

Monday January 16th – Read Luke 4:14-15 Galilean ministry summarized— Jesus’ preaching and popularity. Nearly a year has passed since Jesus was baptized and John the Baptist declares Jesus is the Messiah. If you read John’s Gospel, you see it is only John that has information on Jesus’ first year of ministry including the wedding in Cana, the Temple cleansed, Jesus & Nicodemus, Jesus baptizing in Judea and Jesus and the Samaritans. What would these events in Galilee do for his reputation? What might the people he grew up with think about him?

Tuesday, January 17th – Read Luke 4:16-21 Jesus in the synagogue— Isaiah’s prophecy fulfilled. What would it be like for a kid who never sinned to grow up in a small town? Jesus wasn’t rich so more than likely received teasing about his lack of questionable behavior and social status. How might this contrast with yesterday’s lesson of who Jesus had become? This culture does not believe an individual can claim their own honor, honor is only given by the community. How might this impact what the crowd is going to do?

Wednesday, January 18th – Read Luke 4:22 The positive response of the people. On the surface this is very nice (Matthew and Mark don’t share the positive initial reaction). 1. The people respond very positively with no objections, resistance or hesitancy. 2. They didn’t really understand what he was saying. 3. The warm response was given because they had a distorted concept of the Messiah and his ministry. They expected special treatment, the hometown discount. Have you ever experienced success in finances or notoriety where a group of people in your life assumed they would share in your success?

Thursday, January 19th – Read Luke 4:23-27 Jesus corrects misconceptions: prophets are never popular. Prov. 27:21 says “The crucible is for silver and the furnace for gold, and a man is tested by the praise accorded him.” Where did Jesus experience the praise first? (Right after the wilderness, facing the praise of temptation) How tempting would it be to put these people in their place, to use his power and just blow them away with awe? Instead of power, what did Jesus use to engage the misunderstanding of his purpose?

Friday, January 20th – Read Luke 4:28-30 From praise to precipice. When a group wants Jesus dead towards the end of the account, they create false charges that lead to his crucifixion. In this hometown story, they don’t trouble themselves with such hurdles, they just try to throw him off a cliff. God led Moses through the Red Sea. Jesus parted the angry crowd in a miraculous fashion, the only miracle they would see. What would it look like to be part of that crowd? Perhaps some were not interested in killing him but simply seeing how far the group would go? Those who say or do nothing, are they just as guilty?

Saturday, January 21st – What have we learned this week? God’s prophets are never popular (Acts 7:52). All Christians have been given a prophetic task (John 16:7-11), which is a link even to our day to the suffering of the prophets. False prophets will tell the people what they want to hear while true prophets will speak unpleasant truths from God that people need to hear. How can we learn from Jesus in this week’s passage to be a speaker of truth?

Look at the prayer list. Who can you pray for? Who needs a little extra help in an area where you can make a difference?

Healing Strength: Rex Townsend, Stan Ensich, Chris Osborn (Ken and Sandy Grubb’s daughter), Janet Coons (Donna McCullough’s daughter)

Homebound Members: Mary Hicks, Mary Schmidt, Joann Young, Jeanne Carman

Military Personnel: Adam Walters, Joseph Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Adam Clark