

Jesus Appears to Preach

Luke 4:14-30 || Pastor Paul Hahn || 17 January 2021

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker

Who are some preachers who made an impact on your life? What about them or their messages moved you?

Worship

Ezekiel 37:1-6 (*Remain a few moments in worship with this passage. What is God's invitation to you?*)

Sermon Summary for Luke 4:14-30 (*Read the passage before reading the sermon summary.*)

Jesus is the living Word of God made flesh – the Word by which God spoke creation into existence. God spoke to His people throughout the Old Testament and provided us with the Holy Scriptures. So it's no surprise that Jesus would be a preacher. But what was Christ's preaching like? What defines it and what is it about?

Spiritual // Through His baptism, Jesus identified with humanity in our sin and need for repentance. He merged with us in our need so we could be merged with Him in His righteousness. God the Father honored Christ for embracing this calling, and the Spirit anointed Him for this priestly role. All preaching that comes from Jesus is therefore filled with and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We should therefore pray for all who preach in God's name that the Spirit would empower and give life to their words. It also means that the best thing we can do to receive preaching is pray for the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds to receive it.

Scriptural // Together, the Spirit and Word give Jesus' preaching power, authority, clarity and purpose. During the Sermon on the Mount, Christ says that He hasn't come to do away with any of Scripture but to complete and fulfill it. *"For all the promises of God find their Yes in Him. That is why it is through Him that we utter our Amen to God for His glory"* (1 Cor 1:20). We too must therefore root all our preaching and teaching in scripture. And because all scripture is "of" and points to Christ, our focus as we learn from the Bible must always be on Him.

Wonderful // Jesus was glorified by all who heard Him preach in the synagogues throughout Galilee: *"And all spoke well of Him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from His mouth"* (v22). Jesus saw Himself as coming with Good News for the world's troubled people – a message that offers everlasting joy to all. His teaching was different; He saw God moving in the present as well as in and through His own person. Above all else, what we must take to heart from Christ's message is that the Kingdom is God's gift to us, the fruit of the victory of our Lord and Savior. And so we can have hope in every situation.

Tangible // When Jesus reads the promises from Isaiah and says *"Today this is being fulfilled in your presence,"* He is offering spiritual blessings. But Christ's preaching is also concrete and substantive; He cares about every broken space in our lives, our world, and throughout creation. This begins with our salvation, but Jesus intends to work those blessings outward, redeeming the whole world over time. It's good to long for these blessings... but the fact that God doesn't work on our timeline isn't an excuse to doubt His goodness. Instead, because Jesus' preaching is tangible, it means we are called to actively share the Good News in word and deed.

Confrontational // The Word of God often calls us to grapple with truths about ourselves and humanity that we'd rather not hear. That we are wonderfully made but terribly broken. That we are in desperate need of God's redeeming love. That though we may desire to hear other messages which suit our passions, Jesus alone is the way, the truth and the life. We need Jesus to confront, challenge and correct us... that we might repent and turn back to the Lord, the giver of life and rejoice.

Discussion Questions (You will not be able to discuss all the questions. Pick the ones you like. Some are personal perspective and application questions for life-transforming discussions.)

- **Spiritual** // Why is the Spirit and the word of God crucial to all preaching?
 - What are your thoughts about Jesus as a preacher?
 - What does it look like for preachers to be Spirit-filled? Do you see pastors this way?
 - What does it look like for those listening to a sermon to be Spirit-filled?
 - **Scriptural** // How is honoring / cherishing Scripture a means of Grace?
 - What happens when we neglect spending time with God (and in the Bible)?
 - What are practical ways to “root” ourselves in scripture?
 - Have you done any sort of a Bible reading plan before? Describe the experience. You can find several Bible Reading Plans to choose from [HERE](#).
 - **Wonderful** // When is the last time you marveled at something you read in the Bible?
 - What do you think about this phrase that many pastors use: “Preach the Gospel to yourself.” What would this look like? Why is it a valuable practice? How could it increase our wonder?
 - **Tangible** // Most of us will never be a preacher, but we are still called to make the Word tangible and impactful for the world. What can this look like for both you personally and your CG communally?
 - How did Jesus fulfill v18-19? Why would He say these things were fulfilled in their hearing?
 - **Confrontational** // How has God confronted, challenged or corrected you through His teachings?
 - What does it look like to respond to God well in these times?
 - How can the Christian community support and care for us in the midst of God’s rebuke/reproof?
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Prayer: Pray one another’s prayer requests. For the weekly Prayer Guide click [HERE](#). Use this guide for personal, group or family prayer times.

Engage & Experience: Generous Grace - Peacemaking: *“Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God”* (Matt 5:9). Serious, divisive conflict is everywhere – within families, the church, and out in the world. When we find ourselves engaged in conflict, the question to ask ourselves is, **“How can I please and honor God in this situation?”** What can happen when we stop to ask God and ourselves this very question?

This week, come up with scenarios of how pausing to ask this question might help in being a more generous peacemaker. Next meeting, share the examples with your group in order to help one another show generous grace in this time of real social conflict and turmoil.

Who can you identify that might need to receive generous grace from you in the area of peacemaking? What are steps you could take this week to proactively bring this about?

Generous Peacemaking Resources

- Bible - Ephesians 4:30-32. How do you see relational peacemaking as three-dimensional in this passage; God, Self, Others?
- Four Core Principles of Peacemaking, Ken Sande (2 minute video) [HERE](#)
- Book by Ken Sande, The PeaceMaker [HERE](#)