



## Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

### Rejection is not the exception, but the rule January 22-24, 2022

**Luke 4:16-30** *16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:*

*18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.*

*He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,*

*19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." [a]*

*20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."*

*22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.*

*23 Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself!' And you will tell me, 'Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'"*

*24 "Truly I tell you," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. 25 I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. 26 Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. 27 And there were many in Israel with leprosy [b] in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian."*

*28 All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. 29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. 30 But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.*

1. On the basis of Scripture, how would you counter these popular perceptions of Jesus:

a. "Jesus accepted everyone for who they are."

b. "Jesus was always gentle."

c. "Everything happened the way Jesus wanted."

2. What makes Jesus' sermon at Nazareth memorable to you?

3. How would you interpret the crowd's initial response to Jesus' sermon?

4. What did Jesus mean by the words, "Surely, you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself'?"

5. Why did Jesus bring up the example of Elijah and Elisha?

6. Why do you think the people tried to kill Jesus? (What was offensive about his message?)

7. Give an example of a truth, spoken simply and honestly today, which might elicit a similar response to the one Jesus received.

8. The Nazirites thought they knew Jesus well (e.g. Joseph's son). What danger did that present for them? What's the application for our lives today?

9. In what sense is 2022 the year of the Lord's favor?