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ROCKING THE BOAT

Message Notes

Key TEXT: Luke 4:16-30

Background: Following Jesus' baptism and subsequent time in the wilderness, Jesus starts his public ministry in the region of Galilee and establishes himself in the prosperous trade city of Capernaum. Word of Jesus' ministry is getting out and people are talking.

Jesus all of a sudden decides it's time to go home to Nazareth.

There was nothing special about Nazareth.

There were three key things Jesus shared that rocked perceptions in Nazareth that day. The question as we go through them, is do they exist in us today?

ROCKING THE BOAT #1 – JESUS CHALLENGES US TO GRACIOUSNESS

Jesus stopped and closed the scroll after saying **“And to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour”**. He did not include the second part of the scripture: ‘and the day of our God’s vengeance’.

Declaring a year of the Lord’s favour “Or an acceptable year of the Lord” as other translations write, alludes to a period of Jubilee where debts are cancelled and prisoners are set free.

God is not judging right now. Through Jesus we are accepted.

God is not treating us as we deserve.

Psalm 103:10 - "He has not dealt with us as our sins deserve or repaid us according to our offences".

Do we tend to treat people as they deserve?

Matthew 7: 1-2 "Do not judge, so that you won't be judged. For with the judgment you use, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye but don't notice the log in your own eye?"

ROCKING THE BOAT #2 – JESUS CHALLENGES US TO NOT BOX GOD IN

Jesus was to give a commentary on Isaiah 61 and his commentary was found in verse 21.

He began by saying to them, "Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled."

In declaring this Jesus announced He is the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy in Isaiah 61. He is the Messiah they have been waiting for.

There were perceptions and expectations of what a Saviour would look like, be like and Jesus wasn't it.

The problem is they boxed God in. And God does not live in a box.

Do we interpret the scriptures in a certain way according to our context, and expect God to move the way we expect?

ROCKING THE BOAT #3 – JESUS CHALLENGES US TO PUT FAITH IN HIM

Jesus outrightly challenged what the people's faith was built on.

Jews believed they were the chosen people – set apart to be in covenant with God.

The nation that God is building is based on those who believe in Jesus' redemptive work by faith.

Refer to Verses 23 – 27

Two gentiles from two areas the Jews despised received miracles because they had faith.

The underlying message: Nazareth won't receive Jesus by faith, but non-Jews will.

God's chosen people are those who put faith in His Son.

Galatians 3:28 – There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, heirs according to the promise.

The question is where are we putting our faith?

Jesus doesn’t force anyone to believe in Him. He moved on that day from Nazareth, with few miracles performed. Scripture shows he never returned there.

He cared enough for Nazareth to show them the truth.