

Rejected in Nazareth

Luke 4:16-31

by Don Falkos

copyright 2015 Donald Falkos Storytelling LLC

Jesus went to Nazareth, the town where he had grown up. On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue and read from the prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord is upon me.
I have been sent
to share the good news with the poor,
to set prisoners free,
to give sight to the blind,
to free those who suffer,
to usher in the day
when the salvation of the Lord abounds.

Since he was there to teach, he sat down and said, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled, right here as I read it to you."

The people were impressed with Jesus' air of authority, so different from their usual teachers. Some said, "You know who this is, don't you? This is Jesus. He grew up right here in Nazareth?" They were so proud.

Jesus said, "A prophet is never accepted in his own hometown. During the time of the prophet Elijah, there were many Jewish widows, yet God sent Elijah to minister to the needs of a Gentile widow. And during the time of Elisha, there were many Jewish lepers, yet only a Gentile leper was healed – Naaman, the Syrian."

The people became furious. "He seems to think God cares as much for the Gentiles as for the Jews." They drove Jesus out of the synagogue, out of the town, to very edge of the cliff on which the town was built. They intended to throw him over the edge – to kill him. But when they got there, they discovered he was gone. Along the way, Jesus had somehow turned and walked right through the crowd, and none of them had even realized what was happening.

Jesus left his hometown of Nazareth and went to stay at Capernaum, by the Sea of Galilee.