

²⁵ “Certainly there were many needy widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the heavens were closed for three and a half years, and a severe famine devastated the land. ²⁶ Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them. He was sent instead to a foreigner—a widow of Zarephath in the land of Sidon. ²⁷ And many in Israel had leprosy in the time of the prophet Elisha, but the only one healed was Naaman, a Syrian.”

²⁸ When they heard this, the people in the synagogue were furious.

²⁹ Jumping up, they mobbed him and forced him to the edge of the hill on which the town was built. They intended to push him over the cliff, ³⁰ but he passed right through the crowd and went on his way.

- 4) What was the response of the people in verses 14-22?
- 5) Can a person be amazed by something and not take it to heart? So, what should we do with Jesus’ words, and how do we practically do it?
- 6) Some of us were raised in healthy Christian homes and have never experienced this type of doubt or questioning that Jesus experienced from His home community. If that’s not your story, have you ever felt doubted or rejected concerning your faith from a family member? If so, how did you feel, and how did you respond?
- 7) In verse 23 what do you think Jesus was referring to? (Hint: it was a future event for Himself.)
- 8) Why did the crowd want to kill Jesus? What can we assume might be going on in the hearts of the people in response to Jesus?
- 9) Are there places in your life where you are unwilling to receive the words of Jesus, if so, will you share? What can you do with it?
- 10) How does Jesus being thrown off a cliff relate to the temptations we see Satan throwing at Jesus? See the beginning of Ch 4.

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

This week read through 19-32 and the verses connected. Think about the following thoughts.

- 1) Who are you in Christ?
- 2) Which one of these points is the most meaningful to you?
- 3) Which one is the most challenging to believe?

The Stories That Remain Pastor Craig Sweeney | May 21, 2023

Thread: The question of “IF” is tied to your walking in the power of the Holy Spirit.

¹⁴ And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. ¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...”

Luke 4:14-18a ESV

The Holy Spirit is working to give YOU “all ACCESS” to the good God intended for you.

*“He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”*

Luke 4:18b-19a ESV

The Spirit of God desires to work in your life so that you may find the JESUS path forward.

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²² And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, “Is not this Joseph's son?” ²³ And he said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, “Physician, heal yourself.” What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.” ²⁴ And he said, “Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. ²⁵ But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, ²⁶ and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. ²⁷ And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha,

and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.”²⁸ When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath.²⁹ And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff.³⁰ But passing through their midst, he went away.

Luke 4:20-30 ESV

This is the moment of choice: to recognize the work of God or we explain it away.

- **He already knows who He is. Do you?**
- **Accepting Jesus’ divine call meant accepting a perspective they didn’t already have.**
 - **There are aspects of God’s heart and their own that they don’t want to accept.**

The Power of the Holy Spirit is available to overcome your resistance to the work of God in your life.

Are you resisting the work God wants to do in your life?

Challenge:

- Is there something holding you back from stepping up into your identity? Time to exercise your faith for what God says.
- Is there someone that needs Peacemaking?

For practical, cross-cultural Bible studies related to sermon topics, visit [DougBrittonBooks.com /resources](http://DougBrittonBooks.com/resources).

Life Group Homework

The Stories That Remain

Spring 2023 | Week 8

Message Date 5/21/2023

MY STORY



- 1) What is your favorite TV show?
- 2) What is your cellphone wallpaper, and why?

QUICK REVIEW



- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday’s message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME



Luke 4:14-30 (NLT)

¹⁴ Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit’s power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region. ¹⁵ He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. ¹⁷ The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released,
that the blind will see,
that the oppressed will be set free,

¹⁹ and that the time of the Lord’s favor has come.”

²⁰ He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down.

All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently.

²¹ Then he began to speak to them. “The Scripture you’ve just heard has been fulfilled this very day!”

²² Everyone spoke well of him and was amazed by the gracious words that came from his lips. “How can this be?” they asked. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?”

²³ Then he said, “You will undoubtedly quote me this proverb: ‘Physician, heal yourself’—meaning, ‘Do miracles here in your hometown like those you did in Capernaum.’”²⁴ But I tell you the truth, no prophet is accepted in his own hometown.