

# The truth is....



## GROWTH GUIDE FEBRUARY 2, 2025

*Scripture: Luke 4:21-30*

### **AUTHOR**

Luke, a Gentile, Greek, doctor, close friend and companion of the Apostle Paul. Luke was a historian, put great emphasis on dates and details, and connected Jesus to events and people in history. Luke's purpose was to present an accurate account of the life of Jesus. He stressed Jesus' relationships with people and gave a prominent place to women and showed Jesus' concern for women. Luke wrote his gospel around A.D. 60, from Rome or possibly from Caesarea, and it is the most comprehensive of the gospels.

### **CONTEXT**

Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit's power, began his ministry in Galilee, teaching regularly in the synagogues where he was well received. At the synagogue, the leader would often invite a visiting rabbi to read from the Scriptures and to teach. Scripture would be read standing up and then the rabbi would sit to teach. Jesus went to Nazareth, his boyhood home, and as was his custom, went to the synagogue where he read the scripture for that day. (Isaiah 61:1-2). Our scripture passage today picks up from last week's passage, which was Luke 4:14-21.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Read Luke 4:21-30. In verse 21 Jesus has a mic drop moment. What does he tell the people in the synagogue? What was their initial reaction? But then they began to question Jesus' authority. How could this man they watched grow up, who was the son of Joseph a carpenter, be the Messiah? (Read Luke 2:47, John 6:42, and John 7:15 for other reactions to Jesus' teaching.)

2. Jesus sensed the opposition and said no prophet is accepted in his own hometown. Do you ever feel that your Christian life and faith are not easily understood or accepted by those who know you well? Does this surprise you? Challenge you? How do you handle this?
3. Read Luke 4:25-27 again. Jesus tells them the truth of their blindness and even resentment of God's favor towards all people by reminding them of Israel's history of not being receptive to God's message through the prophets. 2 examples are Elijah and Elisha. Elijah was a prophet from Gilead (See 1 Kings 17:1-9). Elisha was a prophet who succeeded Elijah. (See 2 Kings 5:1-4) Does Jesus confront us today with our own blindness to God's activity?
4. Luke's gospel is inclusive, reminding us that Jesus came for all people. Do you ever see Christianity being made into an exclusive club rather than open to all? Does it challenge us to think that grace, forgiveness, and salvation is offered to all who will receive it, even our enemies or those we judge as not worthy to receive this?
5. The people in the synagogue changed their opinion of Jesus once he spoke truth. Can you think of a time when you heard truth proclaimed and it upset you or others even though the speaker was right? Why do you think the people were so threatened by the truth? The people wanted to stone Jesus. What did he do?

### **NOTES**