

# First Baptist Church Smiths Falls

February 11, 2018

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Luke 4:21-30

21 Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." 22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" 23 He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" 24 And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. 25 But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; 26 yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. 27 There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." 28 When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. 29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. 30 But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

## **Prayer & Lord's Prayer: "Our Father"**

Our Father, Which Art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom Come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever. AMEN

## **Message: "Worldly Rejection & God's Support"**

Introduction:

- After a farmer received a new puppy he went off to do his chores. He was frustrated as the chicken, don't lay eggs, the horse refused to pull the cart, and the cow did not give milk. When the puppy saw his master

walking home across the field, he saw that his master looked so rejected, so very tired, his head was down in sorrow. So the puppy ran to him, jumped into his arms, and the two rolled and romped in the grass. The farmer, rejuvenated, turned to the puppy and said, "You make me feel so good. You have brought me great joy and restored my hope."

- All of us have had an experience where we have felt rejected, and many of us have been purposely rejected by others. But few of us have been rejected in the same manner as Jesus. As our Saviour returns to His hometown in Luke 4, He is rejected so violently that if it weren't for His power and the protection of God, the murderous plan of the His Jewish friends and relatives would have been fulfilled.
- I want to look at the rejection of Jesus in Nazareth in light of 1 Corinthians 13 to see the truth of the rejection of the world, and the power of those who call on God's support in their lives.

Part 1: Corinth and Love

- Let's turn to 1 Corinthians 13. The people of Corinth have problems which is why Paul writes this letter to them. They have put many things ahead of God. In particular, they are worshipping spiritual gifts instead of the God who created them. They are putting stress on people to prove

their Christianity by having and using a gift of the spirit such as the gift of wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophesy, discernment, or speaking in tongues (1 Cor. 12:8,9). These spiritual gifts are then given a priority, and the people possessing them are treated according to the prescribed value of the gift they possess.

- Paul writes to put a fast stop to putting a value on the gifts, and a value on the people who possess them. Paul has written in chapter 12 that these gifts are to be blended together for unity of the body of Christ, the Church (1 Cor. 12:12).
- In 1 Corinthians Chapter 13 Paul sets out to remind us that all gifts are useless without love (verse 1). Many people recognize this passage from the last wedding you were at. The words are as beautiful as they are direct and pointed
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NIV) says: *“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 8 Love never fails...”*

- You can speak in the tongues of people and angels; you can prophecy so well as to be able to understand great mysteries and be full of knowledge; you can have faith enormous enough to move mountains; your generosity can be so immense that you can give all that you have and surrender yourself to be offered as a martyr: you can do anything you think will be a wonderful and gregarious FOR God: but if you don't have love, don't buy a ticket, you've missed the bus.

- Now let's turn back to the Gospel lesson from Luke Chapter 4.

#### Part 2: Luke 4

- We can see the same things that Paul saw in the people in Corinth years later as Jesus saw in the people who were in the synagogue in Nazareth that day. We have a wonderful picture of Jesus sitting among His own people - the friends of His youth, the people whom He had done some carpentry work, the family members of the town in which He grew - and Jesus tells them that He is the fulfilment of prophecy (verse 21). This pleased the people (verse 22).
- But then He turns His attention demanding a deeper and true walk with God, reminding them to that they are to accept God personally and fully (verse 23). To back up His claim, Jesus uses two Old Testament

examples of God caring for Gentiles.

- The people are suddenly furious (verse 28). They are so furious that they become a murderous, riotous crowd. Why? What is it that makes them so mad? What turned them against Jesus?
- I believe that Jesus knew that the people would only accept Him as a “medicine man” at best, but never as The Son of God. Jesus was and is more than a simple healing, a miracle worker, and He wished to tell the people of His hometown that He was sent by God as the Son of God to save His people who have rejected God.
- I believe that Jesus talked this way because He saw so many familiar faces who would not hear the truth from Him. The people simply had not learned. And Jesus drove that point home by talking about how God takes care of everyone, not just a few. Jesus said that they were not listening, and they became furious.
- Jesus told the people of Nazareth that they were missing out on truly worshipping God. Jesus made it clear to the people of His hometown that their religious beliefs were nothing, because they did not listen to God's word.

Part 3: Back to Corinth

- Let’s go back to 1 Corinthians 13. Paul wrote to the people of Corinth about much the same thing: the people had missed the point. They were worshipping the wrong thing. Like the people of Nazareth in Luke 4, the people of Corinth were worshipping something other than God, and they needed a jolt. In Nazareth, Jesus made it clear that the Jews have already had their opportunity to follow God, and yet they have chosen to worship God in their way and not in God's way. And now, 70 plus years later, Paul had to tell the people of Corinth that they also missed the worship of God. Instead of pursuing gifts and outward signs, the people were to serve God from their heart, with their lives.
- Their worship simply was but a “cymbal clanging” noisily, and the racket was not pleasing to God (1 Corinthians 13:1).
- Just like Jesus was rushed out of the village (Luke 4:29) in which He was a boy from the time he was an infant until he was a grown man because the people could not believe the simplicity of the truth of following God by having faith in the God of truth, Paul had the same problem years later with the people in Corinth - they wanted to make the words of God more complicated, they wanted to do more acts, they wanted to work to fulfil a personal sense of greatness.

- What was the bottom-line message common to the people of Nazareth and to the people of Corinth: they wanted greatness - a show, a demonstration of power. They wanted a circus act. The simple was not appealing: give me the spectacular to prove God.

Part 4: TODAY:

- We are still doing this today. So many people today are still wanting “a show” from God and from the Church of Jesus Christ. Jesus is not spectacular enough for them. His humble life was not enough. The fact that He healed; the truth that His words being so powerful that His is quoted everywhere even today; the truth of the resurrection of the Saviour is not enough - give me a show. There are many who insist on a demonstrate of faith in God by demanding a gift of The Spirit to wow us.
- Our oldest son came back from a concert at a rented hall used on Sundays by a Church with a pamphlet about the Church. In it the Church said that the sign that you are a Christian is the ability to speak in tongues - a non-biblical error that was just like the people of Corinth.
- Folks, we need to simply have faith in God. We need to turn to our Saviour with our whole heart. We need to accept the Lord personally as

the Lord and master of our souls, and dare to walk with Him. We need to leave ourselves behind, our old beliefs, our old wants, our old desires, and follow God who is the Father, the God of all. We need to be infused with His power and the strength of His Holy Spirit. We need to fall deeply and fully in love with God the Son, with Jesus the Christ, accept His salvation, and follow God's plan as the only plan for our lives.

- You see, the plan of God revolves around one thing, and it is this thing, something which cannot be missed: love. Without love you miss the point. Without love you will miss God's plan. Without love in your life, a love that comes from God and you share with others, you will be misled and you will misunderstand just like the people of Nazareth and the people of Corinth.
- But I want you to notice something. Look at Luke 4, verse 30. Look at the power of Jesus. A riotous crowd has hustled Him from the synagogue to kill Him. A crowd with fire and emotion storms Jesus to the cliff, ready to thrust Him over. And what does Jesus do: He walks away. He walks away. Imagine the power, the confidence. Imagine the way that the hearts of the followers of Jesus were stirred when they realized the might of Jesus.

- Although rejected by His own people, God's strength proved to be the better. Are you feeling rejected? God has the power that you need in your life. Accept Him. Accept His powerful words. Accept His love and His peace. And walk with Him, accepting and sharing His wonderful love

#### CONCLUSION:

- Knowledge is fine. Gifts from the spirit are amazing. Living a pious life is honourable, but to live life without the love of God being central in your heart, will leave you empty, and will harm others around you.
- Jesus knew rejection, but His love and His power overcame. Dare to walk away from yourself, from this world's rejection, and walk in His love.