

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 06 Dec 2020	..... Luke 1:1-25	..... Planned
2) 13 Dec	..... Luke 1:26-80	..... Conceived
3) 20 Dec	..... Luke 2:1-19	..... Proclaimed
4) 27 Dec	..... Luke 2:20-40	..... Anticipated
5) 03 Jan 2021	..... Luke 2:41-52	..... Matured
6) 10 Jan	..... Luke 3:1-38	..... Prepared
7) 17 Jan	..... Luke 6:27-49	..... Compassionate
8) 24 Jan	..... Luke 4:1-44	..... Rejected
9) 31 Jan	..... Luke 5:1-16; 27-39	..... Followed
10) 07 Feb	..... Luke 5:17-26	..... Forgives
11) 14 Feb	..... Luke 6:1-26	..... Reigns
12) 21 Feb	..... Luke 7:1-50	..... Loved
13) 28 Feb	..... Luke 9:1-62	..... Unashamed

INTRODUCTION

- Jesus began His ministry with "Shock & Awe." He healed everything from headaches to demon-possession; He healed people with faith (e.g., a leprous man) and without faith (a demoniac)
- Many of His healings involved creative powers (e.g., withered hand); and He forgave sins – activities which only God can do
- We will see in this lesson there is something more important than the healings of Christ. It is His teachings. While His healings only brought temporary relief, His teachings brought eternal life

Passage	Comments
4:1-2	<p>40-Day Wilderness Fast to Kick Off His 3 Year Ministry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's the significance of 40 days? Did he plan things? • How does refraining from food really empower us? • Consider Isaiah 58 for the elements of a godly fast
Isaiah 58	<p>Fasting God's Way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To win the battle against wickedness Isaiah 58:6 • To bring relief to those afflicted v6 • To relieve oppression v6 • To break every yoke/burden..... v6 • To share with the hungry v7 • To restore the homeless/poor..... v7 • To cover the naked..... v7 • To resolve personal issues..... v7 <p>Results of a Godly Fast (1 Day of Atonement)..... v5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hope is seen v8 • Health is restored..... v8 • Righteousness is restored v8 • God's glory is proclaimed v8 • Prayers are answered v9
4:3-13	<p>The Temptation of Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus did not perform any miracle to keep from sinning • His model to us is to know and live by God's word - "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" Psalm 119:11 • Satan came at Jesus with 3 basic areas of human weakness, and Jesus responded back with Scripture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Physical Pleasure (e.g, food). There's nothing wrong with eating unless it's gluttonous, or put above a higher priority → to serve God ♦ Pride. We all want to be exalted, but God comes first ♦ Prove Thyself. God wants to be trusted, not tested to perform magic tricks – so let's not cheapen Him
4:14-30	<p>Rejection at Nazareth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus, after his 40 day fast and "in the power of the Spirit" headed for his hometown, and though "they were speaking well of Him" (v22) He did goad His church peeps and ticked them off by challenging them on a few issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v23. He wasn't going to do magic tricks for them ♦ v24. He acknowledged He would not receive their respect ♦ vv25-27. His miraculous works were reserved for others • vv28-30. Why would His hometown church peeps be so enraged and try to push Him off the cliff edge? • What did Jesus do when His home church expressed hostility toward Him? He moved on to another church.

Passage	Comments
4:31-37	<p>Demon-possession within God's House</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v32. How does one teach with authority? Can we do it? • vv33-36. Demonic obsession and/or possession takes many forms from illnesses to behavioral issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This is a lesson unto itself ♦ As Jesus indicated in Mark 9:14-29, a believer must be uniquely prepared to deal with demonic issues • v37. Jesus' reputation began to spread like wildfire • Are people more interested in hearing "heavenly" words or receiving a gift such as free food or a healing? • Some hurts need to be addressed before some people will even listen..... Exodus 6:9 • The Pastor's job is to heal the hurting Ezekiel 34:2-4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Healings don't always need a miracle – sometimes a touch, a kind word, a prayer, or other act of kindness
4:38-44	<p>God's Teachings Have Priority Over Healings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv38-41. Jesus healed ALL who came to Him from fever, to diseases, to disabilities, to demons. Today's so called faith healers pale in comparison • vv42-44. The people tried to keep Jesus to themselves, but Jesus states he had a higher priority – He must take God's message of salvation to others • Remember – Miracles may grab people's attention, but miracles don't save – only heeding God's word saves
Food for Thought	How do we respond to a family who might ask "If nothing is too hard for God, why won't He heal our child of Down Syndrome or of other debilitating handicaps?"

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- The miracles performed by Jesus and the 1st century disciples confirmed the deity of Jesus and message of salvation..... [Heb 2:1-4](#)
- We will not see supernatural miracles again until the 2 witnesses depicted in [Revelation 11](#) show up on the world's scene
- Fortunately, there will come a day when the handicapped will be blessed beyond measure for their hardships on earth [Isaiah 56:3-5](#)
- Also note, [John 14:12](#) says "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do;" What are the "greater works"?
 - ♦ The Bible only records 37 miracles by Jesus; And the Apostles and disciples only performed about 30 miracles, with Paul doing about 1/2 of them, so miracles do not seem to be a part of these "greater works"
 - ♦ But, while Jesus never wrote a book, or traveled more than 200 miles, or won more than about 500 hundred converts, His followers went farther, wrote prolifically, preached to more people, won more converts &, thereby fulfilled the "greater works" without having to take miracles into account
- Are we more interested in seeing and receiving the miraculous, which delivers temporary relief, or should we be more interested in hearing & sharing God's words which deliver eternal life?

NEXT WEEK: Luke 5:1-16; 27-39. In these split passages we see Jesus persuading His new recruits (Peter, James, and John) to drop everything and follow Him. Yet His most pressing priority was not to heal or even to teach, but to PRAY. How high of a priority do we make prayer?

