

**Introduction:**

Today we will conclude our look at *the early period of Jesus' Galilean ministry*.

**Things we will look at in this lesson:**

The Account in Luke

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**01. Where does Luke begin his record of Christ's early Galilean ministry?**

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**Note)**

While Matthew observes simply, “He left Nazareth, and went to live in Capernaum” (Matthew 4:13), Luke records that the people of Nazareth rejected Christ and wanted to destroy Him (Luke 4:16–30), telling us exactly what happened while He was there. Mark adds that the people of Nazareth were amazed at Christ's teaching and questioned His credentials and that Christ, in turn, was amazed at their lack of faith (Mark 6:1–6).

**Article 1)**

The Purpose of His Ministry:

- (1) to preach the gospel—the “good news” of forgiveness and spiritual salvation—to the poor, the oppressed, the humble, those crushed in spirit, the brokenhearted and those who “tremble at his word” (Isa 61:1–3, 66:2). Jesus came to reach out to those whom most other people overlook or reject.
- (2) to bring freedom to people who are enslaved by their own sin and evil or trapped by the troubles and cruelty of the world. This refers primarily to spiritual freedom, though Christ's salvation also includes emotional and physical relief from life's problems and addiction.
- (3) to heal those who are blind, bruised, wounded and oppressed. This healing involves the whole person, both physical and spiritual. Christ is able to open the spiritual eyes of those blinded by the world and Satan so that they might see the truth of God's good news (Jn 9:39).
- (4) to proclaim that true freedom from Satan's power and from sin, fear and guilt is now available (cf. Jn 8:36; Ac 26:18). When Jesus refers to “the year of the Lord's favor,” he does not mean a literal calendar year, but a period of time when spiritual salvation is available to all who accept Christ's message, receive his forgiveness and give control of their lives to him.

**02. What event does Luke record in Luke 4:31?**

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**03. How does Luke's record of the calling of the first five disciples differ from those of Matthew and Mark?**

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**04. What area of Christ's life does Luke stress in Luke 4:42; 5:16; 6:12?**

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**Article 2)**

Jesus and Prayer:

(1) Luke focuses on the importance of prayer and its power in the life of Jesus more than the other Gospel writers. When the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus during his baptism in the Jordan River, he was “praying” (3:21); at times he got away from the multitudes “and prayed” (5:16), and he “spent the night praying” before choosing the twelve disciples (6:12). He was “praying in private” before he asked his disciples an important question (9:18). Prior to his supernatural experience (his “transfiguration”) with Moses and Elijah, he had climbed the mountain “to pray” (9:28); the actual transfiguration occurred while “he was praying” (9:29). He also “was praying” when the disciples approached him about learning how to pray (i.e., the Lord’s Prayer, 11:1). In Gethsemane, he “prayed earnestly” shortly before his arrest (22:44). As he died on the cross, he prayed for others (23:34); and the last words he spoke before his death were a prayer (23:46). Luke also records that Jesus prayed after his resurrection (24:30).

(2) In examining the life of Jesus in the other Gospels (Matthew, Mark, John), we find that he prayed before extending the invitation, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened” (Mt 11:25–28). He also prayed before raising Lazarus from the dead (Jn 11:41–42) and during his last supper with his disciples as he instituted the Lord’s Supper, i.e., communion (Jn 17). We see repeatedly through the Gospels that, Jesus went away from the chaos of the crowds to be alone with his Father in prayer. If Jesus, the perfect Son of God, spent much time in prayer, how much more do we, with all our weaknesses and failings, need to spend much time in prayer and in personal interaction with our heavenly Father?

**05. What is one difficulty we face when trying to reconcile the Sermon on the Mount with Luke’s apparent account?**

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**06. What event does Luke mention in Luke 7:11-17 that the other Synoptic writers do not mention?**

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