

Breaking a bias of the Messiah

by Jeff Lewis

Week fourteen

Last week you considered that Jesus' disciples wanted a Messiah for Israel alone. Jesus had to break the disciples of this cultural bias so that He could fulfill His destiny as Messiah for all nations, and they could fulfill their destiny as Christ's followers.

We will explore this concept further in the following verses:

Savior of the world, not the personal possession of Israel.

- Luke 4:14-30
- 14-15: What is the attitude of the people about Jesus' teaching?
- 16-19: Notice that they hand the book of Isaiah to Jesus, but He intentionally locates the scripture that He reads. What does this prophecy in Isaiah 61, relate to?

Observe what Jesus does after He reads. What kind of reaction did Jesus' silence produce?

- 21: What has Jesus just proclaimed?
- 22: What is the response of the people in the synagogue?

Is their response positive or negative? Be careful how you answer this. What you have heard in the past might not be accurate.

- 23-27: Why do you think Jesus made this statement? He had them in the palm of His hand, so to speak.

Jesus had just proclaimed that He was the Messiah, the One spoken of by the prophets, the One that generations of Jews had been praying for. He knew that they had a nationalistic perspective of the Messiah and that they believed the Messiah was coming to be their personal deliverer. Jesus had not come to be the personal possession of Israel; however, He had come to be Savior of the world. He states that, "no prophet is welcomed in his hometown," but it sure seems like they had welcomed Him. He then gives two illustrations to make His point. He uses two of their favorite prophets to reveal how God had ministered in a special way to Gentiles through them.

Jesus cut to the heart of their narrow, ethnocentric perspective of the promised Messiah. He opened their eyes to the fact that they were not the only ones who needed a Deliverer. His proclamation of release of the captive, recovery of sight and freedom was also a message of hope for the Gentiles.

- 28-29: What was their response to His clarification?

If Jesus is Savior of the world (John 4:42 and I John 4:14), that means that you are a disciple of the Savior of the world. How does that impact your daily walk with Christ? Selah · Example—It means that I must integrate a global perspective in my daily prayer time.

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