

The Welcome Wagon of Nazareth!

Luke 4:16-30

Intro: My first opportunity to speak in my home church following my seminary training was both exciting and terrifying. Our pastor was more than kind to allow me to speak on a Sunday evening. I'm sure he had no idea what might come out of my mouth. But it was back in the days before lapel mikes and I have a tendency to roam when I preach. I'll let your imagination fill in the blanks. Nonetheless, I was graciously received and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. However, that was not Jesus' experience in Nazareth. Rather than a warm reception, he was rudely escorted out of town.

I. A visit by the hometown preacher-boy/rabbi

A. The standard for worship

1. Sabbath
2. Synagogue
3. Book/scroll of Scripture
4. His text
5. His platform position

B. The text for worship

1. Reading of Isaiah 61
2. Fulfillment of Isaiah 61

C. The application of Isaiah 61

1. Initial response of the "crowd"
2. Interactive comment of Jesus: "Physician, heal..."

D. Two illustration from Jewish history

1. Sidonian widow
2. Syrian general

II. The non-welcoming committee of Nazareth

- A. Rage, always a good sign you made your point!
- B. "Miraculous" response to rage

III. Rating your response to biblical preaching on a 1-10 scale (1 meaning you're totally indifferent; 10 meaning you can hardly wait to get out the door to live what you've been taught!)