

Luke 4:21-30

“I give you a new commandment: Love each other.
Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other.
This is how everyone will know you are My disciples,
when you love each other.” John 13:34-35

The assembly believes Jesus was given for their own privilege, for their own comfort. Jesus tells them that He comes in the manner of Elijah and Elisha, not with privilege for Israel or Nazareth. Israel is to be a light to the nations. God is on the side of the marginalized, and for Israel to live up to her election she, too, must be on the side of the marginalized! Hence Jesus’ reading from Isaiah. The congregation wanted it to be about them. Jesus says they should be about others. They were stuck in a binary “us or them” phrase of mind. Jesus tells them it’s not “us or them” it is “us for them.” (D. Quanstrom, 2019).

By way of defense and explanation for the line He had been taking, Jesus points out what happened in the days of the great prophets Elijah and Elisha, and in so doing so identifies Himself with the prophets. Elijah was sent to help a widow—but not a Jewish one. Elisha healed one solitary leper—and the leper was the commander of the enemy army. That’s what did it. That’s what drove them to fury. Israel’s God was rescuing the wrong people (N.T. Wright, 2004).

February Discipleship:

Open your heart and mind to Jesus. Love Him, and allow Him time and room to speak into your life. Let Him disciple you, and out of that experience, get acquainted with someone and hear their heart. Share your experience with Pastor in a short note.

Next week: *Luke 5:1-11*

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February 3, 2019 Filled With the Holy Spirit—Pt 2

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

Today: *Psalm 71:1-6*

Monday: *Jeremiah 6:1-16*

Tuesday: *Matthew 11:25-30*

Wednesday: *Psalm 116:1-7*

Thursday: *Isaiah 40:27-31*

Friday: *Mark 6:30-42*

Saturday: *Hebrews 4:1-11*

Hear my cry O God; listen to my prayer. From the end of the earth I call to You, when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I; for You are my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy. Let me abide in Your tent forever, and find refuge in the shelter of Your wings. Psalm 61:1-4

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