



Hometown  
**Rejection**

## Hometown Rejection

Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

Have you ever heard the maxim familiarity breeds contempt?

According to psychology professionals this expression can often be true.

The short answer for this is because for some- the more they may know someone or even think that they know someone, then the less likely they are able to acknowledge the positives about that said individual now experiencing success no matter how well earned and deserved it may be.

Sadly by human nature it can be even more likely for someone such as this to resist another's hard earned success and to embrace a supposed weakness within them even if this flaw is untrue.

Today here within this lesson while we will walk along with Jesus as Doctor Luke details for us Jesus's return to His hometown of Nazareth. John's Gospel excludes this information seemingly because it was already so well presented within all three of the common view Synoptic Gospels.

However John did give to us an introduction- a message Jesus our Christ had shared with the Disciples as they returned into Galilee & then were for a short while dismissed by the Lord to return to their homes for a short rest until Christ would regather them once again unto Him for His Ministry.

Now here are Jesus's words of caution that He shared with His Disciples as they come home being each encouraged and well pleased at Christ's reception as they returned into Galilee after Jesus's first Ministry Passover in Jerusalem:

✝ Now Jesus himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honor in his own country.

John 4:44 NIV

Now here the word "country" is actually in Greek the phrase "native place." Native place is within ones country of course, however a more local reading of hometown better applies here.

As in all of Galilee was giddy at this time over Christ but His hometown will soon be the exception to this. Why? Because the creator of the universe, the very author of life- Christ our Lord, has already hinted at what will be in store. When He returns to Nazareth.

Note: Jesus is literally on a preaching/teaching & healing tour of Galilee

✝ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup> He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. <sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, In/with the power of the Holy Spirit means with the very power of GOD at His disposal Dr. Luke 4:14-16 NIV

The word Synagogue is a Greek derivative of Hebrew which means gathering place for religious purpose. When Luke states "as was his custom" what we are missing here is it was Jewish custom that if any traveling Rabbi ( teacher/great one ) or dignitary was given the privilege of reading (his) elective scriptures. Because on the Jewish Sabbath certain passages were already pre-selected to be read on certain days.

This custom is still in effect and remains to this day.

Certain Prayers are also given and a precise order of Sabbath service is predetermined.

In Greek this passage reads: "He went in and as was the custom to Him" as in Jesus went into His hometown Synagogue on the Sabbath and because of all the excitement and rumors about Him- Jesus was honored with the selection of being the one whom would freely pick a scripture and then speak upon it during the prescribed moments for this privilege during the Sabbath service.

Outside of Jerusalem and its Temple- the local level Synagogue's were the center of Jewish worship, education, banking, and judicial proceedings. Within Israel its custom and culture; Judaism & civic government were not just dependent upon each other they were in fact fully integrated and entwined. The Synagogue was "The" local institution of public and private social interaction with moral authority. As such the local Synagogue complete with its Pharisees and local Sanhedrin courts were considered to be the de facto extension of the outreach of the Temple itself in Jerusalem.

On this Sabbath as the ceremonial lamp was lit Friday evening, meaning- the ceasing of all labor & at Saturdays dawn, Jesus had to have been each filled with nostalgia of His youth, as well as having been surrounded by familiar faces including His family & friends, as the Sabbath Synagogue service did begin. The scriptures have previously mentioned that Christ taught at the local Synagogues within His Ministry travels, however these passages are the first recorded details of any of Jesus's actual teachings within a Synagogue and at His hometown no less.

Synagogues were in fact first established during the Babylonian dispersion of captivity. Because there is no record whatsoever of any local Synagogue prior to King Nebuchadnezzar. The Jewish people above all of GOD'S created races of mankind, have always kept the most detailed accounts of their history & GOD'S Law. Your Bible is the proof

This is Why? It was and continues to be so difficult for the Jewish people to Biblically forgive and forget. Because it is within their very nature to record in detail every aspect of their society, history, and culture.

In Jesus Time the local Sanhedrin courts depending upon a towns size and its case load met on Mondays & Thursdays at the local Synagogues. These 2 court days were known as: " the days of congregation."

It was custom for the local populace to each plan, finance, build, & then maintain their own Synagogue. As such it was tradition to have at least ten men of leisure ( retired and affluent ) to devote their remaining years to the establishment, upkeep, and admin of the local Synagogue.

Today we would call these men elders, deacons, officers, trustees or by the many other various titles as churches and denominations decree. ( Ten because if Sodom had 10 righteous men it would have been spared.)

The major Prophet Ezekiel 8:16 explains that in previous times hypocritical Temple officials had committed the sacrilege of having bowed down and worshiped false pagan g\*ds facing east, so- all modern Synagogue's of Jesus Time were built to face Jerusalem whatever direction this happened to be.

Each Synagogue was constructed using local stone with columns dividing the interior into two galleries separating the men from the women. Rules of conduct and worship were normally carved into the columns and of course each Synagogue contained a 7 branched candlestick called a "Menorah" which was central to Jewish worship that was ornately carved with vines, leaves, & clusters of grapes.

The Synagogue was considered to be consecrated or made sacred of GOD, and as such reserved and reverent personal conduct was a must. No joking, laughing, eating or drinking, no improper dress, nor was any inclement weather used as an excuse for absence be it rain, snow, or even excessive heat.

Only the official assigned Rabbi was ever allowed to eat drink or sleep there- & even that was debatable.

Benches faced forward toward an elevated "Bema" platform in which scrolls of Torah and the Prophets were kept in an ornate wooden ark/cabinet. What we would identify as a lectern with a large top was upon this orators platform for the reading of GOD'S Word. In the twin galleries below the bench's were arranged on each the men and women's sides facing forward toward the raised Bema podium.

Upon the platform behind the lectern were seats against the back wall facing out toward the assembly.

These were the seats reserved for the "important" to be seen people: such as the Scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees. All of these sat with cold stony silence literally leeringly looking down upon the more common folk. In fact Jesus actually mentions this tiresome practice of the elite elevating themselves to be seen by all as in being above everyone else as a disgrace within their pious conduct.

✝ Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and respectful greetings in the marketplaces. Luke 11:43 NIV

✝ they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; Matthew 23:6 NIV

Inside the floors were made of white slab stone and the walls were plastered.

The outside of the local Synagogues normally consisted of simple rough hewn stone.

A few windows with wooden shutters would be expected with a traditional middle eastern flat roof. Remember because of the heat the flat roofs themselves were often typically used as we would use an outside patio or outdoor shelter today and they usually had stairs on the outside of the building.

Stairs were primarily on the outside of structures in Jesus Time in order to keep separate things separate. As in for a Synagogue any type of meeting or service would not be disturbed by another activity upon the roof by people going up and down the stairs inside the actual sanctuary.

It was custom for the local Pharisee Rabbi assigned to the Synagogue to literally be the Preacher on the Sabbath as well as the school teacher through the week. Often he would sit and Pray between the very same pillars of the Synagogue in which he normally studied the Torah & taught his pupils. This local Minister was expected to be beyond all reproach of behavior & conduct whom would announce the arrival of the Sabbath Friday evening with a double trumpet blast and then he would light the forementioned lamp that signaled the cessation of all labor.

Continuing

✝ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it,

He (Jesus ) found the place where it is written:

Luke 4:17 NIV

Again the Scrolls of the Torah and the Prophets were kept upon the Bema platform in a moveable wooden ark/cabinet called a "Theke." The Scrolls themselves were composed of Vellum. (calfskin) Each individual scroll was covered with a linen sleeve called "Mitpachoth " and they were placed upon two wooden rollers in which one was wound tight as the other side was unwound to find a particular page of scripture.

The process for the reproduction of Torah & Prophetic scrolls were very tedious and exacting. First a scribe copied an individual page and when he was satisfied he passed the page along to a priest whose job was to know the exact phrasing of each passage by memory and to know the exact number of words per page of every book of scripture.

Then, when- the priest was satisfied with the scribes work this single page was then passed on to an official counter. As in this expert knew the exact number of individual letters each page of Holy Writ contained. Meaning it was impossible for any word changes to even occur.

If the scribe passed this three part examination, first of himself, then an expert Priest who knew the word count, and finally then by a professional Scripture examiner who knew the letter count- then the page was added into a scroll. If at any time within this chain of custody if any flaw was found, then any and all of whom who had forwarded the completed page of scripture were forever more barred from ever making or examining scripture again.

So each and every time a professional scribe forwarded a page for approval- it was his reputation and livelihood that was on the line. & then it was for those above him their reputation and livelihoods were also on the line each and every time they approved and signed off on a page.

Of course the approved and verified pages were then added into a scroll until it was complete. It normally took a decent scribe about six months intensive labor to complete a large Torah or Prophetic book such as Genesis or Isaiah.

✠ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ( Greek also states to heal the broken hearted see the KJV) Luke 4:18-19 NIV

From our vantage point of history this being the completion of Christ’s Ministry which affords us the comparison of what we know about the life of Jesus our Christ unto this Messianic prophecy of Isaiah:

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me** : At Jesus Baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Christ.

Mark 1:9-11 ~ Matthew 3:13-17 ~ Luke 3:21-22 ~ John 1:32-34. = Isaiah 61:1

**Good news to the poor** : The Lords comments about hope for those physically poor, however this answer has more to do with lacking Spiritually. (unsaved) ~ Matthew 5:3 of the Beatitudes. = Isaiah 61:1

**Freedom for the prisoners/captives** : Free from Sin & hope to the hopeless. ~ John 8:34 -36 = Isaiah 61:1

**Recover sight for the blind** : Jesus healed the physically blind as well as all of humanity whom receive His pardon of Grace by Faith because we are all born Spiritually blind. Mark 8:22-26 ~ John 9:39 = Isaiah 61:1

**To set the oppressed free** : Those discouraged after being disappointed & disillusioned with the false piety of those hypocritically religious and by the lawfare of corruption of the self serving political elite.

Luke 11:46 ~ Matthew 23:13-39 = Isaiah 58:6

**To proclaim the year of the Lords favor** : Similar to a Jubilee year in which all debts in Israel were to be released. As in by Jesus all of our Sin is atoned for before Holy Jehovah GOD- thusly beginning the Messianic Age of Christ Jesus. ( AKA Church Age/Age of Grace )

So with our Sin once we are Saved removed, we each then have the prospect of peace too worship GOD with gratitude in thanksgiving, but also having the favor as in the Blessing of the Lord IE (that is) being Saved by and for Christ our Lord for forever more. ~ Jesus’s Ministry, Words & actions = Isaiah 61:2  
These Gospel passages of Dr. Luke do not detail for us if an official announcer was present when Jesus read aloud and spoke upon Isaiah. For nearly a century now we have had the pleasure and convience of PA sound amplification. Yes- in Jesus’s Time men with deep booming loud voices were employed at Synagogue to be a living sound system. As in those reading and speaking within Synagogue would normally say a few words or a single verse and then pause for the living amplifier to loudly repeat the orators speaking word for word.

Continuing

✠ Then he (JESUS) rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. <sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” Luke 4: 20-21 NIV

It was normal within the Synagogue worship service during Jesus Time for an honored guest to stand up and read from the sacred scrolls their selected passages that they had specifically chosen to present and then- to sit down on a chair upon the orators podium beside the lectern and speak/teach about what they had just read. The fame of Jesus and of His Work & of His Miracles had now been spread far and wide in Galilee and He- Jesus our Lord had just read from the major Prophet Isaiah predictions about the coming Messiah. ( Christ the anointed one of GOD in Greek ) & Jesus only briefly states that Isaiah’s prophecy is now in their hearing complete. This meaning is very plain and direct: without declaring it, Jesus just said Yes! ~ I AM the Christ = Messiah. This be unto His family & friends before all of His hometown.

So, how did Jesus's very beloved hearth & home respond to His reference that He is indeed- Deity, "The" one and only way to Heaven as the Living human Son of Almighty GOD?

✝ All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked. Luke 4:22 NIV

& the more the people talked the more they were emboldened using their familiarity against Jesus.

The Gospel of Mark as transcribed from the words of Peter give to us a few more details:

✝ Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. <sup>2</sup>When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? <sup>3</sup>Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. (Familiarity bred contempt simply because they knew Jesus & His Earthly family) <sup>4</sup>Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home." <sup>5</sup>He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. <sup>6</sup>He was amazed at their lack of faith. This confirms that the Lord does for those who have Faith in Him. Mark 6:1-6 NIV

Likewise Matthew 13:54-58 echoes these words almost exactly.

✝ Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?" they asked. <sup>55</sup>"Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? <sup>56</sup>Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" <sup>57</sup>And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home." <sup>58</sup>And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Continuing

✝ Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself!' And you will tell me, 'Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'" (Jesus had healed a Nobleman's son sight unseen) Luke 4:23 NIV

Here is the common Jewish idiom that Jesus was quoting :

Live not in a city whose chief is a medical man, he will attend public business and neglect his patients.- The best among doctors deserves Gehenna (Hell) for his bad treatment of some and his neglect of others.

Meaning Jesus is aware that Nazareth's real problem with Him- stems, from their gossip and outrage that Jesus had performed His miracles throughout Galilee and had opposed the Pharisees in Jerusalem.

As in they were jealous that He had become famous outside of Nazareth, & Jesus has just said as much.

Jesus continues:

✚ “Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown.

<sup>25</sup> I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. <sup>26</sup> Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. <sup>27</sup> And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.”

Luke 4:24-27 NIV

Just Like Elijah and Elisha they each were very powerful by Prayer in the Lord- these 2 Jewish Old Testament Prophets from the past that Jesus was now quoting before this hostile hometown crowd- These two Prophets from the Lord were EG for example themselves all too familiar with the taste of bitter rejection. This being their familiarity causing unbelief that Jesus is also now experiencing for Himself. Jesus is also telling them because of their rejection just like Elijah & Elisha they too will receive little of GOD from Him.

& here is how Jesus’s hometown people reacted:

✚ All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. <sup>29</sup> They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup> But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

Luke 4:28-30 NIV

Nazareth was stationed atop a steep slope with a gradual incline on one side with a cliff or drop off on the other. This malicious hometown crowd got exactly what they had asked for, as in a miracle from Christ Jesus as to Him proving His identity as Messiah. You see the Spirit of GOD blinded them in comprehension as to Jesus’s presence and He simply walked right through the hostile mob that was supposed to be His friends & family. They did not see Jesus & He literally passed right through them.

Think about that; meaning whenever Jesus allowed Himself to be confronted or even later to be arrested- He could have simply blinded their minds and walked right past them.

One Final thought about a decommissioned Synagogue no longer in service as to its land & timbers etc. They were still considered to be sacred, so its timbers were never to be sold to any person or business considered to be unclean. Such as a Tannery, or a public bath. As such it was custom for when a town grew- a new bigger Synagogue was always made in proportion to the size of the increase of population.

Growing trade guilds were usually the first in line to acquire the older previous Synagogue.

Copper or Iron smiths were always eager to get the official stamp of approval by purchasing the former site and then setting up shop on what will forever be considered Holy ground.

As in by selling the previous Synagogue to them- the Pharisees' were actually endorsing them as the only ones legally plying that particular trade in that place..

✚ Then he ( Jesus ) went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath he taught the people. <sup>32</sup> They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority. Unlike His Hometown when Jesus read scripture He claimed it & they accepted Him. Luke 4:31-32 NIV

You had to literally descend from atop in Nazareth down to the coast of the Lake of Galilee to reach Capernaum within the “Fisherton” region. ( Just like saying Ohio Valley or the Tri State area.)