

Study 1: Luke 3:21-4:30

This year in Prayer & Study groups we will be studying Luke's Gospel and picking it up just after the Christmas story.

An Overview of the Passage

1. What are the main events in this passage?

Focus on ... 3:21-4:13 (Jesus the Son of God)

2. What are the four things we are told about Jesus in 3:22? If this is what Jesus is like, why does he need to be baptised in 3:21?

3. In 4:1-13, how is Jesus tempted? What are the two features that characterise how Jesus responds to each of the temptations? (One has to do with what he says, the other with what he does.) How does this differ from Adam and Eve's response when they were tempted (Genesis 3:3,6)?

4. What does Jesus' response to temptation show about his attitude to God? (N.B. This question will require some thought, and to see what 4:4 tells us about this subject you will need to complete Jesus' quotation by looking up Deuteronomy 8:3.) How does Jesus' attitude to God differ from Adam and Eve's in Genesis 3:5-6?

5. Summarising what we have seen so far, what does 3:21-4:13 tell us about what sort of 'Son of God' Jesus is?

Focus on ... 4:14-30 (what Jesus says he has come to do)

6. From 4:18-21, list all the things Jesus said he came to do. In the light of the fact that Jesus has just won a battle over the devil, what do ideas like 'freedom for the prisoners' and 'to release the captives' mean?

7. In 4:23 Jesus verbalises what his original hearers are thinking, namely that they want him to demonstrate to them the miracles that he performed in Capernaum. What does Jesus' reply in 4:24 imply is wrong with their desire? In 4:22-30, how does their behaviour show that Jesus is right in his analysis of them?

8. In 4:25-26 Jesus is referring to 1 Kings 17:7-16, where God sent Elijah to feed, miraculously, a widow and her son during a great famine in Israel. But these two were not Israelites, although the famine affected all alike. So what point is Jesus making in Luke 4:25-26? Why are his original hearers so upset by this?

Closing Headlines

9. What are the main points Luke is making in this passage?

10. Which of Luke's main points has most struck you? How will it change your thinking and the way you live?