

# Marks

Daily Prayer ■ Weekly Worship ■ Bible Reading  
Giving Time, Talents & Resources ■ Spiritual  
Friendships ■ Service In & Beyond the  
Church

# of Discipleship

January 23, 2021

## Day 1: Luke 4:20

**And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.**

In the synagogue people sat along the sides with the middle of the floor open. The speaker would sit at the front on a special chair. "All eyes were on him" meant they were expecting something important to happen. There was a moment when Jesus could take a breath and utter a short prayer before speaking. All eyes are still on Jesus and expecting a word of hope. When we are the ones people are looking at for a word of hope we need to take a moment, say a prayer, and speak.

**Question:** If someone asked you why you are a believer, what would you say?

**Challenge:** Ask 3-4 other people why they are a Christian?

**Scripture:** Isaiah 61:1-4

## Day 2: Luke 4:21

**Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."**

The word of hope Jesus gave was two fold: first, it was a statement of fact and second, it was an invitation to follow Him. The statement of fact could only be known by following Jesus. Today we who are blind can see, we who are slaves are free, we who are afflicted find good news, and we who are captive are released. But we will not know all of this until we follow Jesus.

**Question:** Think about the things you know to be true. How do you know they are true?

**Challenge:** How would you convince someone you loved them?

**Scripture:** John 15:1-27

## Day 3: Luke 4:22

**All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?"**

The response of the crowd is what one could expect. Some were amazed at his message. Some wondered how the boy they saw grow up could say such things. Instead of listening to Jesus' words, they heard what they expected to hear. Many groups in the first century and ever since wanted to use Jesus to verify their view of God and correct living. Jesus will not be used by anybody. To listen to Jesus we need to put aside our expectations and be open to what God has to say.

**Question:** How do you think God has spoken to you?

**Challenge:** Think about what you believe about God and Jesus. Think about the source of those beliefs. Ask yourself are my beliefs true or convenient?

**Scripture:** John 6:25-69

## Day 4: Luke 4:23

**He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'"**

The people in Nazareth wanted Jesus to do the wonders in their town that He did around Capernaum. The people may not have accepted Jesus' message that He was the fulfillment of the promise, but they did want to see and experience the miracles he did. They thought that because He was from their town they should have the first rights to His services.

**Question:** When was the first time you knew that God was real?

**Challenge:** Think of what the benefits of being a Christian are.

**Scripture:** John 10:1-21

## Day 5: Luke 4:24

**And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown."**

What angered the people of Nazareth was Jesus telling them that He was for the whole world, not for just one town or country. He told them that God's salvation is for all people. In an odd way, His hometown felt rejected by Jesus because he included everybody else. They were so angry at Him that they wanted to throw Him off the hillside.

**Question:** When was a time you were angry at God? Why?

**Challenge:** Look at a map of the world and pray for each region that they might experience the Love of God and them go to our community and pray the same thing.

**Scripture:** John 17

## Day 6: Luke 4:29

**They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff.**

Jesus' experience of preaching in His hometown was not as successful as it was in other parts of the countryside. Only part of the problem was that He grew up there. Most of the problem came because the people were not expecting God, but were expecting their image of God or who they thought God should be.

**Question:** What are five words that describe God?

**Challenge:** Ask some of your friends what words come to their minds when they think of God.

**Scripture:** John 15:1-27