

DEEP PREP GUIDE

Today | January 18 | BIG GOD STORY

SCRIPTURE | Luke 4:14-30

BOTTOM LINE

God's kingdom in Jesus disrupts life today.

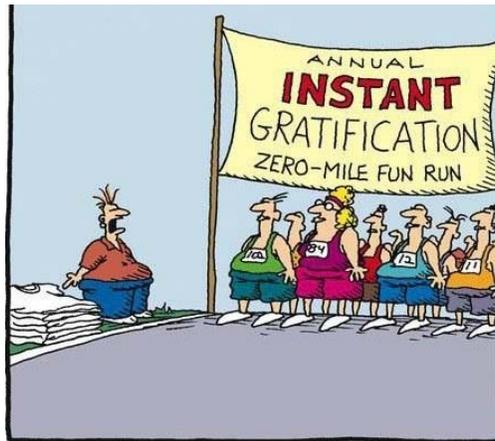
MEMORY VERSE

"You've just heard Scripture make history. It came true just now in this place." Luke 4:21

LIFE APP

In your today with Jesus, what should Jesus disrupt?

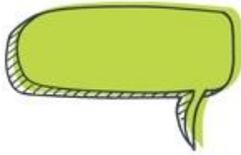
If you have kids, you've probably heard the phrase, "I want it now" just a couple of times. We live in a culture of instant gratification, so it shouldn't surprise us when our kids pick up on those cues at home. Here's a quick cartoon that I think captures some aspects of where we live:



"Runners to your mark. Get set. Go! ... OK, come get your T-shirts."

Deep down, most people don't want to do the work down the stretch that leads us to what can ultimately fulfill us. Think about this in what happens when Jesus disrupts our lives. We experience disruption, Jesus is present with us, reworks + restores our life around Him as the center, and we get to experience more of God's life as a consequence. On the other hand, many people expect and assume that opening their life to Jesus fixes everything right away. All the wrongs are righted, the sins are forgiven, grace is bestowed, and you get your "Jesus + Me" t-shirt.

The reality is, our theme of "Today" disrupts our culture of instant gratification. It's not that Jesus instantly changes everything, but because of Jesus, the disruption and God's overwhelming transforming power is available to us TODAY.

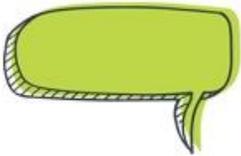


TENSION

Our Bottom Line for this week is that **God's kingdom in Jesus disrupts life today.**

Our tension connects with our culture of instant gratification. If Jesus is as disruptive and powerful as He is, why does it take so long for Him to change my life? Why does it take so long for my relationships to be healed and restored? Why does it feel like He is far from me?

As was shared above, the reality is not that Jesus disrupts/changes everything right away (or today). The truth is in the reality that Jesus fulfilled what was promised, and TODAY we can receive and see the disruption that Jesus creates in us and the world. It may take time for that to be fully realized, but He does promise that when we open ourselves to Jesus, the change becomes true in our lives.

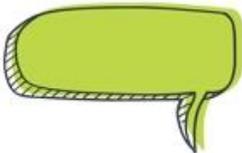


TEXT [CONTEXT]

Jesus is described as performing a public reading of scripture; he claims to be the fulfillment of a prophecy in Isaiah 61:1-2. Jesus, says Luke, went teaching in many synagogues, and on the Shabbat he goes to his hometown of Nazareth, gets up and reads a quote from Isaiah referring to himself as the fulfillment of this. The people are amazed at this, but Jesus goes on to rebuke them, saying "I tell you the truth ... no prophet is accepted in his hometown."

Luke adds that Jesus recounted stories about how, during the time of Elijah, only a Sidonian woman was saved, and how, during the time of Elisha, though there were many lepers in Israel, only a Syrian was cleansed. This, according to Luke, caused the people to attack Jesus and chase him to the top of a hill in order to try to throw Jesus off, though Jesus slips away.

The center of this text is on the proclamation of Jesus making the truth of Scripture true to the people of that day. For centuries, it was prophecy. Now the time has come for the disruption of Jesus to start challenging what is accepted, expected, and comfortable in the world in the day of Jesus. While Jesus doesn't disrupt everything in a day, it started with a day for that disruption to begin its truth in the world. This passage can be seen as a picture of Jesus fulfilling the prophecy of the Messiah coming but also creating a new avenue for the disruption the Kingdom of God makes to come into the world.



TRUTH

The truth is real because the truth is real. God's Kingdom comes true today because of what Jesus fulfilled. It's the best news in the world. We can receive and experience the work that Jesus came to do TODAY. It isn't perfect today, but it can start today. We don't need to "get our lives straight" or "get right with God" in order to come to Jesus. He's ready TODAY for us.