

# The Life Challenge

**"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10**

## **Sermon Series: Stories of Jesus**

**Title:** Son of Who?

**Speaker:** Matt Ewert

**Text:** Luke 4:14-30

**Date:** January 29, 2017



## **Introduction**

In this story, Jesus declared that He was the king long promised by God. The citizens of His hometown, knowing Him well as the son of Joseph, were unable to see Him as the Son of God and rejected His claim to be Messiah. Jesus response indicated that their rejection would not stop the work of God in the world from moving ahead.

## **Discussion**

Re-read this week's story from Luke 4:14-30.

Look at Luke 4:18-19, which is the portion of Isaiah that Jesus quotes. Here we get a description of what it looks like for the Kingdom of God to come.

- What are some modern day examples of this image that Isaiah gives us?
- If Isaiah were writing this prophecy today, what pictures might he choose to describe what God's Kingdom looks like?

In quoting Isaiah, Jesus stops short of reading the portion that declares the day of vengeance of our God. This seems consistent with other places where Jesus says that His immediate mission is salvation rather than condemnation.

Read John 12:46-48 before considering the next 2 questions.

- Given that we are living in the era of salvation, how should followers of Jesus engage with the idea of judgment and vengeance?
- In what ways should those themes be a part—or not be a part—of our biblically faithful telling of the good news of Jesus?

The familiarity that people from Jesus' village had with Him caused them to miss His true identity. They saw Him as the son of Joseph, but missed Him as the son of God. In our lives today we can fall into a similar trap whereby we know Jesus in a "familiar" way, and yet lose sight of the grandeur, wonder and awe of who Jesus is.

- How would you assess yourself in this regard?
- What can followers of Jesus do practically to help maintain a healthy view of Jesus as not just the son of man, but as the holy and awesome Son of God?

Natural disasters, wars, disease, election results; there are all sorts of things that cause people worry and consternation as we look at the world around us. As Christians, we believe that the coming of God's Kingdom means that all the things that cause worry in the world today are passing away and in their place God is going to establish His Kingdom.

- How should our belief in the promises of God about the emergence of His Kingdom give us a different perspective about what we see on the world stage than those who don't have that hope?
- What should our engagement in the world look like given our belief that God's Kingdom is coming?