

Jesus Christ the Son of God
Hope Chapel Honolulu
Luke 4:1-30

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Isaiah 61:1-2a, Luke 4:18-19, ESV)

Introduction

In modern American society hero worship--whether of Hollywood superheroes, professional athletes, supermodels or singer/dancer/musician/gamer/(insert your own)—seems to have become the norm. The majority of these “hero” figures, however, are admired and worshiped for something they have done or can do. Here in Luke 4 both Satan and the people of Jesus’ hometown basically say, “If you are the Son of God, prove it.” But Christ is to be worshiped not just because of what He has done or will do, but because of Who He Is: “the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation” (Col1:15).

1. Jesus Christ the Son of God. (Luke 4:1-13)

- a) Christ’s identity was confirmed by John the Baptist and by the Father (Lk3:15-22).
- b) Satan’s temptation of Christ came from not just doubt of His ability but His identity.

2. The identity and mission of Jesus Christ Son of God. (Luke 4:14-21)

- a) Christ’s identity and mission were confirmed by both the Spirit and Word of God.
- b) Proclaiming “the year of the LORD’s favor” but not “the day of vengeance of our God.”

3. All can be saved by grace through faith, yet lost because of unbelief. (Luke 4:22-30)

- a) Despite Christ’s identity and ability, those who heard Him refused to believe the prophecy.
- b) When confronted with their unbelief, the Nazarenes tried but failed to kill Christ.

Conclusion

Those who knew Christ best worshiped Him because of His identity and authority, but they followed Him because of His relationship with the Father and how He invited them to share His relationship with the Father, too. The apostle we know as John wrote, “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” and “that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ” (Jn1:14, 1Jn1:3, ESV). Christ’s identity and ability may surprise you, He is the Son of God, the life, the truth and the way home to the Father.

For our prayerful study, discussion and application:

- 1) Read Luke 3:1-22 for a better understanding of the context of Luke 4:1-30.
- 2) Read Isaiah 61:1-11. Discuss what portion Jesus quoted in His hometown synagogue and why He only quoted Isaiah 61:1-2a?
- 3) Discuss the identity and ability of Christ and why we worship and pray in His Name.

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