



# UNEXPECTED PLACES

LUKE 4:21-32  
MESSAGE BY PASTOR  
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## Unexpected Places - January 2022

*And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."  
22 And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" 23 And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "'Physician, heal yourself.'" What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.'" 24 And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. 25 But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, 26 and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." 28 When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. 29 And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. 30 But passing through their midst, he went away.*

Jesus' first sermon caused quite a stir! There were two main reactions to this message: some marveled, but all were filled with wrath. What inspired such anger? They were familiar with Jesus. They knew where he grew up, they knew his family, and so they rejected his message. The message was truly amazing— he claims to be the Messiah!

This short sermon from Jesus highlights the faithlessness of the Israelites and faith of those the Israelites thought were unworthy. Jesus continued this theme of reaching out to the “unworthy” – he recruits fishermen, tax collectors, and zealots to be his disciples; he delivers the demon possessed and heals Jews and Gentiles; and he eats with tax collectors and prostitutes.

We are quick to judge others as being unworthy, but the invitation to salvation is made to all.

-Who around you doesn't know Christ?

-At least 67% of people in Beaufort County claim no religious affiliation.

Why don't people share their faith? Recent research asked, “Why do Christians not share their faith?” Top reasons included fear, perceived lack of opportunity, the third most common reason is “nothing– I just don't do it.” Other common reasons include feeling unequipped, afraid of rejection, and fear of hostility.

-Do you share your faith regularly? Why or why not?

Where is God calling you to labor for the Kingdom?

