**Jesus Rejected in Nazareth**

**A Bible Story From**

**Luke 4:14-30**

**Bible Story Number: 2010130**

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**Jesus Rejected in Nazareth**

**Bible Story**

Free guides and other free resources for presenting a Bible Story are available at: www.FoxMinistries.org

**Background**

The setting for this story is the town of Nazareth. Jesus lived there during his childhood and on into his early adult life. The town was small enough to allow everyone to know each other.

In this story, Jesus reads from Isaiah and tells the people he is the one these verses are talking about. He also mentions Elijah and Elisha. These were familiar stories to those listening.

Jesus is rejected in Nazareth for a second time.

**Story from the Bible**

**Luke 4:14-30**

This is what the Bible says.

Jesus arrived in Galilee and the news about him spread throughout the area. He was teaching in the synagogues (Jewish houses of worship). He was becoming well known.

He went to Nazareth, the town he had lived in while growing up. He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. Jesus unrolled the scroll and found the place where it read:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

When he had finished reading, he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. Everybody was waiting and listening.

Jesus began by telling them that the Scripture he had just read was fulfilled that day.

They were amazed, and even though they spoke well of him, they still asked, “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?”

Jesus said to them, “No doubt you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Doctor, heal yourself,’ and will tell me, ‘All we’ve heard that took place in Capernaum, do here in your hometown also.’”

Jesus also said to them, “I assure you: No prophet is accepted in his hometown. But I say to you, there were certainly many widows in Israel in Elijah’s days, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months while a great famine came over all the land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, instead he was sent to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. And in the prophet Elisha’s time, there were many in Israel who had serious skin diseases, yet not one of them was healed, instead Naaman the Syrian was healed.”

The people of Nazareth were furious because of what he said. They drove him out of town and took him to the edge of the hill the town was built on and intended to throw him off the cliff. But he passed right through the crowd and he left.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* Did Jesus go to the synagogue regularly? Why?
* Does a church have to be perfect for us to commit to attend regularly?
* Why do you think Jesus was not accepted by the people of Nazareth?
* Why did Jesus go to Nazareth if he knew he would be rejected?
* What was Jesus saying to them when he mentioned the miracles done by Elijah and Elisha?
* What does Jesus’ statement, “No prophet is accepted in his hometown” mean to us today?
* Can you think of a situation where this story might be helpful to tell?
* What does this teach us about God?
* What should we do in response to this teaching?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.