Rejection at Nazareth: "Luke in a Nutshell"

Topics
Reading of Luke 4:14-30
Questions for Discussion
Notes for Discussion
Use of summary statement in Isaiah 4:14-15
The Isaiah passage read by Jesus
Luke 4:14-30 marks a transformation of Jesus
Significance of Jesus' custom of going to the synagogue
How the people of Jesus' day viewed and used the reading of biblical passages in the synagogue
Honor and Shame
Importance of health in the ancient world
Luke 4:19 and the Year of Jubilee
Significance of Jesus' Proclaiming the Kingdom

References

Reading of Luke 4:14-30
Luke 4:14-30

Questions for discussion
What strikes you as meaningful in this passage?
Is there anything that you noticed in this reading that you have never noticed before?
How does this passage serve as a mini-version of the Gospel of Luke?
Who says what to whom about what, in what setting, and for what purpose? (Malina’s?)

Notes for discussion:
Use of summary statement in Isaiah 4:14-15
Introduction of the theme of the Spirit’s role
Jesus inaugurates his ministry “filled with the power of the Spirit.” How does the Acts of the Apostles begin?

Proverb parallel to Luke 4:24 is Mark 6:4
There are additional non-canonical sources in which this proverb is found, including the Gospel of Thomas (“Jesus said, ‘No prophet is accepted in his own town; a physician does not heal those who know him”).

The Isaiah passage read by Jesus
Isaiah 61:1-2; Isaiah 58:6
Anointing referred to in Isaiah is that conferred on prophets, not kings
Squares with comparison to Elijah and Elisha later in the passage
Elijah narrative - 1 Kings 18:1; 1 Kings 17:9
Elisha narrative - 2 Kings 5:1-19

Luke 4:14-30 marks a transformation of Jesus
Luke 4:14-30 marks the transformation of Jesus, the private individual, to Jesus, the public figure
Immediately follows temptation in wilderness
Marks transformation in several areas
Chaos to order
Student to teacher
Follower (of John the Baptist) to leader
Private to public person
Passivity to power
Ritual elements:
Initiand: Jesus
New role: prophet
Elder: John the Baptist
Symbols: river, desert, mountain, temple, scripture, etc.
Ritual process:
Separation
Liminality
Communitas
Confrontation
Aggregation
Prophets:
- "Speak oracles of warning and judgment against sin"
- New revelations from God
- "Holy, separate, all-seeing, faithful to God’s covenant, powerful in word"
- Elijah & Elisha: cured lepers (2 Kings 5:1-19), raised the dead (1 Kings 17:17-24), multiplied food (2 Kings 4:42-44)

**Significance of Jesus' custom of going to the synagogue**
- Jesus went to the synagogue as was his custom - signifies
  - Jesus place in the culture
  - his obedience to God
  - participation in covenant between God and Israel

**How the people of Jesus’ day viewed and used the reading of biblical passages in the synagogue**
- "...in synagogue preaching the biblical passage will be explained in terms of contemporary occurrence, while in debate the passage will be used to dishonor opponents; in temple discussions the readings might look to legal precedent."
- The society of Jesus’ time was a "high context society."
- **Low context societies**: detailed texts, leaving little to the imagination. Ex. The Congressional Record, our society
- **High context societies**: sketchy texts with few details, the biblical and Mediterranean world

**Honor and Shame**
- In Luke 4:14-30, we see denial of honor to Jesus at inaugural appearance
- Sees Luke as writing a corrective to society’s labeling of Him as a false prophet and a danger to society
- Honor & birth/kinship. The challenges to Jesus’ honor:
  - a carpenter
  - son of Mary

Importance of health in the ancient world
- Health and the critical importance to status and liberation in the ancient world

**Luke 4:19 and the Year of Jubilee**
- compare Luke 4:19 and references to the year of Jubilee (Leviticus 25:8-22 and Isaiah 61:1-4)

Significance of Jesus' Proclaiming the Kingdom
- Jesus acts as broker for the people and their relationship to God by proclaiming the kingdom

**References**