

THE WAY

Title: Now He Has Gone Too Far!

Biblical Passage: Luke 4:22-30

Core Point

Jesus spoke truth on the day He announced His ministry. The religious crowd responded by trying to kill Him. They rejected Him, His words, and His authority. We can be just like the Pharisees when we choose religion (our rights, traditions, or preferences) over Jesus who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

The Question: *Do you have religion or a genuine relationship with Jesus?*

Getting Focused

1. Read Luke 4:22-30 and imagine yourself sitting in that synagogue.
 - a. Why do the people listening to Jesus move so quickly from praise to violent anger?
 - b. What sin is at the core of the people's response to Jesus?
 - c. Why do you think religious people work so hard at holding on to their religion?
 - d. What about Jesus' teaching makes you angry? What does He proclaim or ask of you that rubs you the wrong way? And why?
2. Read 1 Kings 17:8-16 (which is referenced in Luke 4).
 - a. What is the most important difference between the widow and the religious people in the Luke passage?
 - b. What is Jesus getting at by using this example?
3. Read pg. 78 – the 4th paragraph on pg. 80 in *Jesus, The One and Only*.
 - a. What do religious people do that offends the culture at large?
 - b. James 3:10 says, "My brothers and sisters, these things should not be so." How are these things in opposition to living in the dust of our Rabbi?
 - c. Why do we gravitate towards maintaining the status quo instead of radical obedience to Jesus and His Way?

Group Reflection

Hebrews 3:7 says, "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts." What have you heard today?

Even if we have a relationship with Jesus, we can fall into the trap of being "religious" and reject Him.

-Reflect on these 4 character traits of a religious person: Control, Selfishness, Familiarity, and Comfort.

-Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate where you fall into religious behavior. Confess that to the group and pray for one another.

OUR PRAYER FOR ONE ANOTHER & OUR COMMUNITY

Pray this for each other:

May you believe in God. But may you come to see that God believes in you. May you have faith in Jesus. But may you come to see that Jesus has faith that you can be like Him. A person of love and compassion and truth. A person of forgiveness and peace, and grace, and joy, and hope. And may you live in the dust of your rabbi, Jesus.

Pray for India:

That the caste system in India is abolished in this generation. That the outcasts will encounter the dignity and love of Christ through our team. For wisdom, power and protection for Sunil Sardar, the leader of Truthseekers Ministry.