

WEEK 5:

REASONS YOU MIGHT WANT TO KILL JESUS

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:

Luke 4:14-30

RELATED SCRIPTURES:

1 Kings 17:1-16 (Elijah and the widow from Zarephath) 2 Kings 5:1-14 (Elisha and Naaman), Philippians 3:1-14, Mark 2:13-17, Matthew 9:9-13

“[People who are not sure] that God loves and accepts them in Jesus, apart from their present spiritual achievements, are subconsciously radically insecure persons [...] Their insecurity shows itself in pride, a fierce, defensive assertion of their own righteousness, and defensive criticism of others. They come naturally to hate other cultural styles and other races in order to bolster their own security and discharge their suppressed anger.”

- Richard Lovelace

PERSONAL STUDY:

Read Luke 4:14-16. What details does Luke give us about the nature and rhythm of Jesus' early ministry?

Read Luke 4:16-22 and Isaiah 61:1-7. In your own words describe the promises prophesied about in Isaiah 61. Why would these words specifically have caused the crowd to respond so well in Luke 4:22? (Refer to “The Cultural Landscape in the Time of Luke’s Gospel” at the beginning of this study guide for historical context.)

What is interesting about where Jesus stops reading in the Isaiah passage? What promises does He leave out? Are there any times in your life where you feel like God has failed to remember or uphold His promises? Why?

Read Luke 4:23-30. Why does the crowd’s response change so drastically? What is significant about the two stories Jesus tells in v. 25-27? What is different about the people God took care of in these two stories and the people in the crowd?

What kinds of things are you tempted to believe help you earn or deserve God’s favor or blessing? If you had to make one, what kind of things would you put on your spiritual resume?

Read Philippians 3:1-16. Why is Paul free to reject his own spiritual resume? Ask Jesus to set you free to adopt Paul’s attitude toward your spiritual resume.

SERMON NOTES:



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

When in your life have you been mad at God? Why? What did you believe in that moment would have helped you not be mad at Him?



Luke 4:17-21. What kind of people come to mind in the verses Jesus reads from Isaiah 61? How much do you tend to identify yourself in and with these groups of people?

What kinds of things do you tend to think belong on your spiritual resume? What attributes make someone spiritually impressive or spiritually inadequate in your mind? What determines if people are good people or bad people?



What are you insecure about? In what arenas of life do you believe it's most important to prove yourself and perform well?

Read Galatians 2:19-21. Why is it hard for us to believe that in Jesus there is nothing left to earn from God? Why is it hard for us to believe there is nothing good in ourselves by which we can or must earn God's favor?

