

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**LUKE 4****Luke 4**

Luke records the immediate events after the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. Both Matthew and Luke record the same sequence of events in their fourth chapters. However, while Matthew has Jesus coming back to the Galilee, of which the town of Nazareth is a part, Luke records the details of His visit to the synagogue there. Matthew, on the other hand, takes us immediately to the record of what happened after He visited Nazareth.

"And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written..." (Luke 4:16-17)

Jesus comes to His hometown after being baptized and tempted for forty days and nights. He came in power and fullness of the Holy Spirit. ***"and as His custom, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day..."*** This is an eye-opening statement from the inspired record. Jesus was a religious Jew. It was His custom to go to the Beth Knesset on Shabbat. The "Beth Knesset" is the Hebrew term for "House of Assembly." This is also the modern name for the name of the seat of government of the current Jewish State of Israel. The House of the People, the 120 elected who represent the various political parties of the people of Israel, is called "The Knesset." The term Beth Knesset was replaced by "Synagogue" during the Greek period that began with the conquests of Alexander the Great.

Since the New Testament was written in the world trade language of the day, "koiné" Greek, "common" Greek, the writers chose to use this term that comes to us today. The phrase, ***"as was his custom,"*** speaks of a habit or manner of life. Jesus was not just a once-a-year or an infrequent visitor to the neighborhood synagogue. He was there as *"a way of life."* From time to time, you may be talking to someone who claims to be a follower of Jesus, whom you might invite to come to your church. Often you will get the reply, "I'm a follower of Jesus, but I am not a religious person, and neither was Jesus. He was not a religious person." That is untrue and Biblically inaccurate. Jesus was very religious and followed the customs and rituals of that day. He embraced customs and rituals that enhanced his witness to the people of His day.

He did not embrace those customs and rituals that distracted and detracted His walk and fellowship with His Father in heaven. Jesus was perfect, while everyone else participating in the service that day, including most likely His own blessed mother and brothers, were all sinners. This deals a significant blow to those who say, "I am as good as anyone who goes to your assembly!" That may or may not be true with the person with whom you are speaking, but it was certainly true that Jesus was better than anyone on earth, yet He humbled Himself and worshipped with people less than He. I trust you will listen to the "On the Way..." Podcast on today's text for a fuller explanation of this chapter.

Prayer and Action Steps

Lord, I thank You that You love me and have provided others in my area that want to know You, love You, and serve You. Help me find a church that will be a family to my family and me and, most of all, will help me learn to love You and love others more. Lord, help me to be faithful to be a positive part of a local assembly of people who love You.

(Special note: For those of you who receive this and live in an area, state, or country where you do not have access to a local church of Jesus, please get in touch with us, and we will get help to you as quickly as possible. Dr. Crisp)