

Centered in Jesus

Atomic Habits of Jesus

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Luke 4:14-21

January 25, 2026

Introduction: In Ephesians 2:19 the apostle Paul writes: “...you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone; in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.” (NRSV) As we begin a new calendar year and a new era at UPC it is time to ask ourselves the question “What does it mean to live my life with Christ at the center?” In this series, we will look into scripture for pictures of what that looked like for the people of Jesus’ time and the early church. The clues we find will help us construct an actionable answer to this question so that we can take stock of where we are and take steps to make Jesus the center of our lives.

Review: How did you see God’s power at work in your life this week?

Read: Luke 4:1-13

Prayer: Almighty God, you fulfill what you say you will do. Help us now to see what you are doing in this scripture. Amen

Discussion:

1. What is Jesus doing in Galilee? What is being reported about him?
2. It is Jesus’ custom to go to the synagogue on the Sabbath. Why do you think that reading and interpreting scripture is one of the first things Jesus does in his public ministry?
3. What specifically is Jesus saying is now fulfilled? (See Isaiah 61:1-2) How would you explain ‘the year of the Lord’s favor’? See also Isaiah 49:8-10
4. In the first 3 chapters of Luke how has God introduced Jesus to various people? What is known about Jesus so far? How does this episode build on what the people of Jesus’ time knew about Jesus?
5. What do you know about Jesus? What confirms to you that Jesus is the Messiah?

Application: Ask God’s guidance to help you to understand scripture.

Prayer: Holy Jesus, thank you for making yourself known to us. Amen.