

Centered in Jesus

When the Church Rejects Jesus

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Luke 4:21-30

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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: Which habit mentioned in the sermon was the most personal in your life?

Read: Luke 4:21-30

Prayer: Father, this an important text concerning rejection of Jesus by those in his own synagogue (fellowship). Amen

Discussion:

1. How did Jesus begin his sermon? Was this offensive to his listeners? Did they question his authority? How?
2. What was Jesus's initial response?
3. What was his further response?
4. Describe the response of the people. Was this response legitimate? Why was the action so extreme?
5. What is your reaction to v 30?

Application: This week reflect on the anger/hostility that even the Church sometimes expresses toward the teachings of Jesus and his commands.

Prayer: Father, this text humbles us concerning what can happen in the Church. Amen