

Living with Confidence
Series: Luke
September 24, 2017 **Pastor Bill Bump**

The confidence we should live with is not self-confidence; it is, rather, a confidence in Jesus.

Philippians 4:13 *For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.*

We are confident in heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:8 *Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord.*

We are confident in prayer.

Hebrews 4:16 *So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.*

We are confident about our spiritual movement.

Philippians 1:6 *And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.*

Luke wants us to learn to be confident in our proclamation of the Good News.

After preaching and teaching in many synagogues in Galilee, Jesus finally returned to His hometown.

In Luke 4, Luke describes what happened there and shares four examples of Jesus' striking confidence.

1. Jesus had the confidence to preach in His hometown.

Luke 4:14-16 ¹⁴ *Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region.* ¹⁵ *He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.*

¹⁶ *When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures.*

Luke lets us know that it was Jesus' custom to go to the synagogue on the Sabbath.

Luke also tells us Jesus preached with confidence and boldness in His hometown.

2. Jesus had the confidence to announce His deity to people who were skeptical.

Luke 4:17-21 ¹⁷ *The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written: ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, ¹⁹ and that the time of the Lord's favor has come."*

²⁰ *He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. ²¹ Then he began to speak to them. "The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!"*

Jesus deliberately chose a passage that predicted the coming of the Messiah.

Jesus was confidently saying to His hometown, "I am the Messiah."

At first, people were impressed.

Luke 4:22 *Everyone spoke well of him and was amazed by the gracious words that came from his lips. "How can this be?" they asked. "Isn't this Joseph's son?"*

Jesus sensed their unbelief.

Luke 4:23-24 ²³ *Then he said, "You will undoubtedly quote me this proverb: 'Physician, heal yourself'—meaning, 'Do miracles here in your hometown like those you did in Capernaum.' ²⁴ But I tell you the truth, no prophet is accepted in his own hometown."*

The gospel of Matthew says that Jesus did no mighty works in Nazareth because of their unbelief.

Jesus had the confidence to make a series of amazing statements about Himself:

John 5:24 *I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.*

John 8:12 Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

John 8:23-24 ²³ Jesus continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You belong to this world; I do not. ²⁴ That is why I said that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am who I claim to be, you will die in your sins."

John 14:6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

3. Jesus had the confidence to confront people with an unpopular truth.

Luke 4:25-27 [Jesus said,] ²⁵ "Certainly there were many needy widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the heavens were closed for three and a half years, and a severe famine devastated the land. ²⁶ Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them. He was sent instead to a foreigner—a widow of Zarephath in the land of Sidon. ²⁷ And many in Israel had leprosy in the time of the prophet Elisha, but the only one healed was Naaman, a Syrian."

The main point: God loves the Gentiles just as much as the Jews.

The people's reaction:

Luke 4:28-29 ²⁸ When they heard this, the people in the synagogue were furious. ²⁹ Jumping up, they mobbed him and forced him to the edge of the hill on which the town was built. They intended to push him over the cliff...

4. Jesus had the confidence to minister in spite of rejection.

Luke 4:30-31 ³⁰ ...but he passed right through the crowd and went on his way. ³¹ Then Jesus went to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and taught there in the synagogue every Sabbath day.

Conclusion

We need the confidence to continue to share about Jesus, even though we will occasionally be rebuffed.

The truth of Jesus is so powerful that we need to proclaim it with confidence.

We are to confidently sow the seed of the Gospel, even though some may reject it.

Romans 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.*

We are called to live with confidence in Jesus, which will lead to boldness in our lives.