

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

**READ** Luke 4:30-31 <sup>30</sup> ...but He passed right through the crowd and went on His way. <sup>31</sup> 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.

**READ** the following passages. **Mark everything that stands out to you.**

**1 Peter 3:15, 16** – <sup>15</sup> *Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. <sup>16</sup> But you must do this in a gentle and respectful way.*

**2 Timothy 2: 15** – *Work hard so God can approve you. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the Word of truth.*

**Isaiah 55:10, 11** – <sup>10</sup> *“The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. <sup>11</sup> It is the same with My Word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, & it will prosper everywhere I send it.”*

**1 Peter 1:23-25** – <sup>23</sup> For you have been born again. Your new life did not come from your earthly parents because the life they gave you will end in death. But this new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God. <sup>24</sup> As the prophet says, *“People are like grass that dies away; their beauty fades as quickly as the beauty of wildflowers. The grass withers, and the flowers fall away. <sup>25</sup> But the Word of the Lord will last forever.”* And that Word is the Good News that was preached to you.

**REFLECT** Write your thoughts from the above passages – as they relate to what you have looked at this week regarding Jesus being prepared and interacting with others on a spiritual level – and your personal responsibility to do the same. \_\_\_\_\_

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**RESPOND** (Application for this week) **WHAT** were the most significant scriptures for you this week? (Write out and highlight key words or phrases.) \_\_\_\_\_

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**WHY** are those scriptures *significant to you at this time in your life?*

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**HOW** can you practically apply what God spoke to you about?

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**WHAT** will be the time frame for your application?

(1) Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ (2) *Progress* Check Date(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) Finish Date \_\_\_\_\_  
/ \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**WHO** I can ask to hold me accountable for my application: \_\_\_\_\_

# Sermon-Based Devotional

Lawrence Free Methodist Church

(Based on a Sermon by Pastor Bill Bump on September 24, 2017)

## LIVING WITH CONFIDENCE

Series: Luke

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.

**READ** Luke 4:14-16 **Mark everything that stands out to you.**

<sup>14</sup> *Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about Him spread quickly through the whole region. <sup>15</sup> He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.*

<sup>16</sup> *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.

<sup>a</sup> **Luke 4:16** – Synagogues were very important in Jewish religious life. During the Exile when Jews no longer had their Temple, synagogues were established as places of worship on the Sabbath and as schools for young boys during the week. Synagogues continued to exist even after the Temple was rebuilt. A synagogue could be set up in any town with at least 10 Jewish families. It was administered by one leader and an assistant. At the synagogue, the leader often would invite a visiting rabbi to read from the Scriptures and to teach. Itinerant rabbis, like Jesus, were always welcome to speak to those gathered each Sabbath in the synagogues. The apostle Paul also took advantage of this practice (see Acts 13:5; 14:1).

<sup>a</sup> Jesus went to the synagogue *“as usual.”* Even though He was the perfect Son of God and His local synagogue undoubtedly left much to be desired, Jesus apparently attended services regularly.

<sup>a</sup> Adapted from the Life Application Bible, New Living Translation, Large Print Edition, Tyndale, p. 2,193

**REFLECT** Write your thoughts from Luke 4:14-16. \_\_\_\_\_

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Note – **READ** the following passages from Luke 4. **Mark what stands out to you.** You will then record your thoughts in the **REFLECT** section at the bottom of the page.

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

**Luke 4:17-21** <sup>17</sup> The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to Him. He unrolled the scroll & found the place where this was written: <sup>18</sup> “*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, <sup>19</sup> & that the time of the Lord’s favor has come.*” <sup>20</sup> He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, & sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at Him intently. <sup>21</sup> Then He began to speak to them. “*The Scripture you’ve just heard has been fulfilled this very day!*”

<sup>a</sup> **Luke 4:17-21** – Jesus was quoting from Isaiah 61:1, 2. Isaiah pictures the deliverance of Israel from exile in Babylon as a Year of Jubilee when all debts are cancelled, all slaves are freed, and all property is returned to original owners (Leviticus 25). But the release from Babylonian exile had not brought the expected fulfillment; they were still a conquered and oppressed people. So Isaiah must have been referring to a future messianic age. Jesus boldly announced, “*The Scripture you’ve just heard has been fulfilled this very day!*” Jesus was proclaiming Himself as the One who would bring this Good News to pass, but He would do so in a way that the people were not yet able to grasp.

<sup>a</sup> Adapted from the Life Application Bible, New Living Translation, Large Print Edition, Tyndale, p. 2,193

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** <sup>23</sup> 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.’ <sup>24</sup> But I tell you the truth, no prophet is accepted in his own hometown.*”

<sup>a</sup> **Luke 4:24** – Even Jesus Himself was not accepted as a prophet in His hometown. Many people have a similar attitude. Don’t be surprised if your Christian life and faith are not easily understood or accepted by those who know you well. Because they know your background, your failures, and your foibles, they may not see past those to the new person you are becoming. Let God work in your life, pray to be a positive witness for Him—and be patient.

<sup>a</sup> Adapted from the Life Application Bible, New Living Translation, Large Print Edition, Tyndale, p. 2,193

**REFLECT** Write your thoughts from the above passages. *I.E. – Jesus knew where to find the scriptures that God gave us to reveal Him to us. I need to apply myself in knowing God’s Word so that I can share it with others so they can come to know Christ. Committing and disciplining myself to memorizing God’s Word on a regular basis is the best way to do that. I will come up with a plan to begin memorizing at least 2 verses/week – and find an accountability partner to do that with me.*

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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:

**READ** the following statements from Jesus, in the Gospel of John. **Mark everything that stands out to you.** You will then write your thoughts.

**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.*” (Jesus)

**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** <sup>23</sup> Jesus continued, “*You are from below; I am from above. You belong to this world; I do not. <sup>24</sup> 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.*”

**REFLECT** Write your thoughts from the above passages in the Gospel of John. *I.E. Jesus cared for people. He was NEVER hesitant to speak about who He was and what He had to offer people. He ALWAYS took the opportunity when He had it – and sometimes He created the opportunity – to tell those who would listen about things of a spiritual nature and how their lives could be changed and made whole by Him. Jesus is my model for living. If I am to follow and emulate Him, & if I truly care for the well-being of others—then I need to take the initiative to seek to be equipped to be able to share with others how they can experience all Jesus has to offer them—and then engage with them in a mutual dialog.*

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

**READ** **Luke 4:25-27** [Jesus said,] <sup>25</sup> “*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. <sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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:

**READ** **Luke 4:28-29** <sup>28</sup> *When they heard this, the people in the synagogue were furious. <sup>29</sup> 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...*

<sup>a</sup> **Luke 4:28** – Jesus’ remarks angered the people of Nazareth because He was saying that God sometimes chose to reach Gentiles rather than Jews. Jesus implied that His hearers were as unbelieving as the citizens of the northern kingdom of Israel in the days of Elijah and Elisha, a time notorious for its great wickedness.

<sup>a</sup> Adapted from the Life Application Bible, New Living Translation, Large Print Edition, Tyndale, p. 2,194

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