

Galilean Ministry—A Warm Welcome (November/December 30)

John 4:43–45

43 After the two days he departed from there to Galilee.

44 (For Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country.)

45 So when he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him because they had seen all the things he had done in Jerusalem at the feast (for they themselves had gone to the feast).

Galilean Ministry—Jesus Preaches the Gospel (December 30 – March 31)

Matthew 4:17

Mark 1:14b–15

Luke 4:14b–15

17 From that time Jesus began to preach this message:

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

14b and proclaimed the gospel of God.

15 He said, “The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the gospel!”

14b and news about him spread throughout the surrounding countryside.
15 He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by all.

Galilean Ministry—Jesus’ Second Sign: Healing an Official’s Son (December 30 – March 31)

John 4:46–54

46 Now he came again to Cana in Galilee where he had made the water wine. In Capernaum there was a certain royal official whose son was sick.

47 When he heard that Jesus had come back from Judea to Galilee, he went to him and begged him to come down and heal his son, who was about to die.

48 So Jesus said to him, “Unless you people see signs and wonders you will never believe!”

49 “Sir,” the official said to him, “come down before my child dies.”

50 Jesus told him, “Go home; your son will live.” The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and set off for home.

51 While he was on his way down, his slaves met him and told him that his son was going to live.

52 So he asked them the time when his condition began to improve, and they told him, “Yesterday at one o’clock in the afternoon the fever left him.”

53 Then the father realized that it was the very time Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live,” and he himself believed along with his entire household.

54 Jesus did this as his second miraculous sign when he returned from Judea to Galilee.

Galilean Ministry—Rejection at Nazareth (December 30 – March 31)

Luke 4:16–30

16 Now Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read,

17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

18 *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and the regaining of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,*

19 *to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor.”* [[Isa 61:1–2a](#)]

20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on him.

21 Then he began to tell them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled even as you heard it being read.”

22 All were speaking well of him, and were amazed at the gracious words coming out of his mouth. They said, “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?”

23 Jesus said to them, “No doubt you will quote to me the proverb, ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ and say, ‘What we have heard that you did in Capernaum, do here in your hometown too.’”

24 And he added, “I tell you the truth, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown.”

25 But in truth I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s days, when the sky was shut up three and a half years, and there was a great famine over all the land.
 26 Yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to a woman who was a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. [cf. [1 Kgs 17:8–24](#)]
 27 And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, yet none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” [cf. [2 Kgs 5:1–19](#)]
 28 When they heard this, all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage.
 29 They got up, forced him out of the town, and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff.
 30 But he passed through the crowd and went on his way.

Galilean Ministry—Jesus Makes Capernaum His Home (December 30 – March 31)

Matthew 4:13–16	Mark 1:21a	Luke 4:31a
13 While in Galilee, he moved from Nazareth to make his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 so that what was spoken by Isaiah the prophet would be fulfilled: 15 <i>“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way by the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— 16 the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, and on those who sit in the region and shadow of death a light has dawned.”</i> [Isa 9:1–2]	21a Then they went to Capernaum.	31a So he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee,

Galilean Ministry—Jesus Calls Four Fishermen (December 30 – March 31)

Luke 5:1–11

1 Now Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing around him to hear the word of God.
 2 He saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets.
 3 He got into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.
 4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and lower your nets for a catch.”
 5 Simon answered, “Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing! But at your word I will lower the nets.”
 6 When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets started to tear.
 7 So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they were about to sink.
 8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!”
 9 For Peter and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken,
 10 and so were James and John, Zebedee’s sons, who were Simon’s business partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.”
 11 So when they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Matthew 4:18–22

Mark 1:16–20

18 As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon (called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea (for they were fishermen). 19 He said to them, “Follow me, and I will turn you into fishers of people.” 20 They left their nets immediately and followed him. 21 Going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in a boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets.	16 As he went along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew, Simon’s brother, casting a net into the sea (for they were fishermen). 17 Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will turn you into fishers of people.” 18 They left their nets immediately and followed him. 19 Going on a little farther, he saw James, the son of Zebedee, and John his brother in their boat mending nets.
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Then he called them. 22 They immediately left the boat and their father and followed him.	20 Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.
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Galilean Ministry—A Demon in the Synagogue (December 30 – March 31)

Mark 1:21b–28	Luke 4:31b–37
<p>21b When the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. 22 The people there were amazed by his teaching, because he taught them like one who had authority, not like the experts in the law. 23 Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit, and he cried out,</p> <p>24 “Leave us alone, Jesus the Nazarene! Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” 25 But Jesus rebuked him: “Silence! Come out of him!” 26 After throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him. 27 They were all amazed so that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands the unclean spirits and they obey him.” 28 So the news about him spread quickly throughout all the region around Galilee.</p>	<p>31b and on the Sabbath he began to teach the people. 32 They were amazed at his teaching, because he spoke with authority.</p> <p>33 Now in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, 34 “Ha! Leave us alone, Jesus the Nazarene! Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” 35 But Jesus rebuked him: “Silence! Come out of him!” Then, after the demon threw the man down in their midst, he came out of him without hurting him. 36 They were all amazed and began to say to one another, “What’s happening here? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!” 37 So the news about him spread into all areas of the region.</p>

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Chronological Notes

- 1) The similarities and differences between the synoptic accounts of Peter’s call (Matt 4:18–22; Mark 1:16–20; Luke 5:1–11) have caused scholars to come to different conclusions about the relationship of the two accounts. Some see them as different descriptions of the same event¹ while others see them as two separate events.² For now, I have chosen to group the events together in the reading.
- 2) Elements of Peter’s call resemble the post-resurrection story in John 21:1–14, but arguments for an originally post-resurrection setting for Luke’s tradition are unconvincing. Moreover, as Abogunrin has rightly noted, “The differences between the accounts are more striking than the similarities.”³

¹ Orville E. **Daniel**, *A Harmony of the Four Gospels: The New International Version, Second Edition*, (Baker Book House, 1996), 43–44; Floyd N. **Jones**, *An Analytical Red Letter Harmony of the Four Gospels*, (KingsWord Press, 1999), 23–24; Steven L. **Cox** & Kendell H. **Easley**, *Harmony of the Gospels*, (Holman Bible Publishers, 2007), 55–56; A. T. **Robertson**, *A Harmony of the Gospels for Students of the Life of Christ*, (New York: Harper & Row, 1922), vii; Kurt **Aland**, *Synopsis of the Four Gospels* (Greek-English Edition of the *Synopsis Quattuor Evangeliorum*); Walter L. **Liefeld** & David W. **Pao**, “Luke,” *Expositor’s Bible Commentary*, Rev. Ed., 115–116; I. Howard **Marshall**, “The Gospel of Luke,” *NIGTC*, 200 [apparently]; Robert H. **Stein**, “Luke,” *New American Commentary*, 168 fn. 35; John **Nolland**, “Luke 1:1–9:20,” *Word Biblical Commentary*, Vol. 35a, 221 [apparently].

² Robert L. **Thomas** & Stanley N. **Gundry**, *A Harmony of the Gospels: New American Standard Edition*, (Moody Press 1978); Darrell L. **Bock**, “Luke 1:1–9:50,” *Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament*, 450–451; D. A. **Carson**, “Matthew,” *EBC*, 119 [apparently]; William **Hendriksen**, “Luke,” *Baker New Testament Commentary*, 280; Leon **Morris**, “Luke,” *Tyndale NT Commentaries*, 131–32.

³ S. O. Abogunrin, “The Three Variant Accounts of Peter’s Call: A Critical and Theological Examination of the Texts,” *NTS* 31 (1985): 592–93. See also Marshall’s comments (I. Howard Marshall, “The Gospel of Luke,” *NIGTC*, 200.)