

A watercolor illustration of a coastal town. In the foreground, there are rolling green hills with some trees. In the middle ground, a town is built on a hillside, featuring a prominent lighthouse with a white tower and a dark top. To the left, a sea stack rises from the water. The sky is filled with soft, white and blue clouds. The overall style is soft and artistic, with visible brushstrokes and a warm color palette.

The Gospel of

Luke



Simeon in the Temple

Luke 2:29-32

29 “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation 31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

Luke 2:34-35

34 “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

Luke 4:14-16

14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. 15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. 16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up.

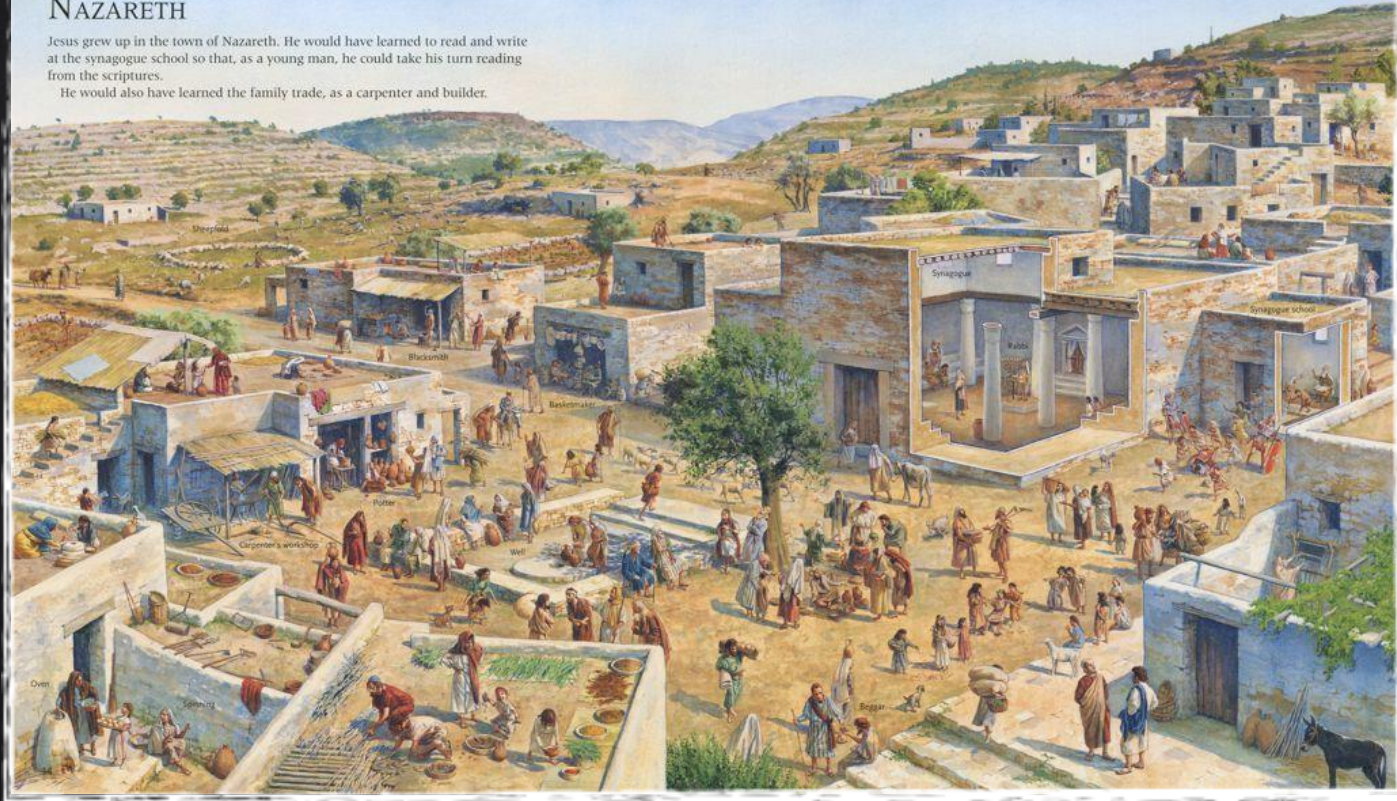


Nazareth

NAZARETH

Jesus grew up in the town of Nazareth. He would have learned to read and write at the synagogue school so that, as a young man, he could take his turn reading from the scriptures.

He would also have learned the family trade, as a carpenter and builder.



“The little branch/offshoot”

“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.” (Isaiah 11:1-2)

“And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.” (Isaiah 11:3-4)

Luke 4:16-17

16 ...And as was his custom, Jesus went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and 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:



“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 liberty
to the captives and the

recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty
those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of
the Lord’s favor.” (vv. 18-19)

Luke 4:20-22

20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." 22 And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?"

Luke 4:23-24

23 And he said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Physician, heal yourself.’ What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.” 24 And he said, “Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown.”

Luke 4:25-26

25 “But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, 26 and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.”

Luke 4:27

27 “And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.”

Jesus' heart for those on the margins
extends even beyond our national
borders and the bounds of our
community.

Jesus is revealing what is hidden in the human heart. Too often we approach God as consumers, demanding product.

Luke 4:28-30

28 When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. 29 And they rose up and drove 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 passing through their midst, he went away.

A “we-first” mentality, which assumes *our* Savior must serve us and our needs first, short-circuits our experience of God’s activity. Such as a self-focus blinds us to what God is doing for the world.

Jesus does not say, “There go the people. I must follow them, for I am their leader.”

In love, he beckons us, “You do not know the way that leads to life. Change directions and follow me.”