



Children's Story

Cycle C, Epiphany 4

Jesus won't
always give you
what you want

Title: Jesus won't always give you what you want.
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Text: Luke 5: 1-11.
Church: Home Street Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, MB
Text: Luke 4:22-30
Theme: Jesus calls us to follow him

Wondering questions:

- I wonder what the people expected when Jesus said he was sent with good news for the poor.
- I wonder why Jesus would not perform miracles in his home town.
- I wonder what we can learn from being angry about not getting what we want.

Gathering Activity:

Good Morning, Children. I hope you had a good week. Let's settle into comfortable positions so we can listen well, and see well, as we enter this special part of worship. Today we'll start by remembering last week's children's story. Remember: Jesus stood up, read from the scroll, and told the people that the Bible was talking about him, and sat down instead of having a sermon. That was his way of announcing that God had sent him to bring good news to the poor, to let the blind see, and free those who were trapped or treated badly. Today's gospel text shows us how the people in Nazareth reacted to what Jesus said after he announced what his job was and sat down.

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Story:

After Jesus made his announcement, the people in Nazareth were excited. They had heard about the miracles Jesus performed in other places, and now they wanted Jesus to do the same for them. They wanted to see what he could do. But, he didn't do what they wanted him to do. Maybe they were hoping he would change some water into good wine for them. But Jesus said, no, he was not going to do miracles in his hometown of Nazareth.

This did not make them happy. It made the people so angry they wanted to hurt him and throw him off a cliff.

Can you imagine how they felt? Have you ever been angry when you didn't get what you wanted? Maybe you asked your Mom or Dad to buy you something at the store and they said, "No, we're not buying that." Do you remember how you felt? Were you angry, sad, disappointed, or even jealous? Well, that is how the people in Jesus' hometown of Nazareth felt, when Jesus would not perform a miracle for them. Maybe the people of Nazareth wanted to see a miracle, just to see a miracle. Maybe they did not understand or care about the job that God sent Jesus to do. God did not send Jesus to entertain people with miracles; Jesus was sent to teach the people about God. Sometimes miracles helped Jesus show people what God wanted for the world. But, not always, and not this time in Nazareth. They almost did something very bad because they were so angry.

We live a long time after those people in Nazareth, but we can still learn about what God wants for us from Jesus. Jesus did not always do everything people wanted him to do then, and Jesus doesn't give us everything we ask for now, either. When we get angry about that, let's remember these people and

ask ourselves, "Will the things we're asking for help us be part of God's plan of love and right living?" And then, let's cool down, and ask Jesus to give us what we need to join in with God's good, big plan. When we do that, we will help Jesus do his important job on earth.

Prayer:

Jesus, it can be really hard when we don't get what we want. It can make us angry. Help us remember that you know what we need, better than we do. Help us learn from you and join in with God's big, good plan. Amen.