INTRODUCTION: One of the greatest ironies of all is that so many people are offended by the foundational teaching of Christianity: God’s offer of forgiveness through Christ. We should not be surprised when people react negatively to the message of God’s grace . . . just as they reacted to Jesus’ message the day Jesus went to church.

I. Jesus’ Arrival In Nazareth (Luke 4:14-16)

Luke 4:14-15  “14 And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit; and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district. 15 And He began teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all.”

Luke 4:16  “And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read.”

Hebrews 10:24-25  “24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.”

II. Jesus’ Message (Luke 4:17-28)

A. Components of a Synagogue Service

1. Invocation

2. Reading of Scripture

3. Instruction
Luke 4:17  “And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book, and found the place where it was written,"


B. Four Prophecies About the Coming Messiah  (Luke 4:18-19; Isaiah 61:1-2)

Four Characteristics of the Messiah

1. He would be anointed by the Spirit.  
   “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me.”

2. He would announce the arrival of God’s salvation. 
   “He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives.”

3. He would bring God’s salvation. 
   “To set free those who are downtrodden.”

4. He would offer forgiveness from sins. 
   “To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.”

C. The Missing Phrase from Isaiah 61:2

Isaiah 61:2  “To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn,”

Revelation 19:15  “And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.”

Luke 4:21  “And He began to say to them, ‘Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’”

Luke 4:23  “And He said to them, ‘No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me, “Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.”’

Luke 4:24  “And He said, ‘Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his home town.’”

IV. Jesus’ Opposition (Luke 4:28-30)

Luke 4:28  “And all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things;”

Luke 4:30  “But passing through their midst, He went His way.”

V. Practical Principles From Passage

As Christ’s Disciples...

A. We Need to Imitate Jesus’ Disciplines

B. We Need to Emulate Jesus’ Courage

C. We Need to Articulate Jesus’ Message

Conclusion