SCC MEN'S SATURDAY AM BIBLE STUDY
November 14, 2026 7:30 AM – Jesus introduced at Nazareth

Today's study is anchored in Matthew 4:12-17 which is placed right after the wilderness temptation, and we immediately see that it's an example of a brief "narrative framework" which the other gospel writers build upon. Detailed versions of happened in Nazareth show up in Luke 4:14-31 and Mark 6:1-6. The timing of when it happened differs significantly. Luke has it right at the beginning, and Mark (which Greek Matthew copies) has it much later. We've always been accustomed to throw up our hands and say it's a mystery. Today we'll see why. We'll also get into the lesson Jesus wanted to teach us!

What's There? Searching the Scriptures

A. Carefully read through page 1 & 2 of "Nazareth Introduction study notes" and pay attention to each iteration of this story. We start with a couple of verses from the Hebrew narrative framework 1.0 written by the Apostle Matthew. Mark copies it almost verbatim but leaves out a few details. Luke expands on it considerably! Then we see that the Apostle Matthew decides to take another go, and add a prophetic passage to his original framework in his complete 2.0 expansion of his Gospel. The Scripture passage is fully Hebrew. The Greek translator of Hebrew Matthew then combines Mark's version and Matthew's expanded version. How does this process strike you?

B. Zoom in on the word "fulfilled" found in Mark 1, Luke 4, and Matthew 4. What are each of these authors trying to tell us about the significance of what is being fulfilled in this moment?

C. Matthew 4 quotes Isaiah 9:1-2. Now read Isaiah 9:1-7. What else do you learn here about the Messiah?

D. Luke 4 quotes Isaiah 61:1-2. Now read the entire chapter. What else do you learn here about the Messiah?

E. What are some of the attitudes that may have been behind the question in Luke 4:22, “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” Why did the Nazarenes’ familiarity with Jesus present a challenge to their acceptance of his mission? Look at Mark 6:1-6/Matthew 13:53-58 for parallels.

F. Read over page 3 of the “Nazareth Introduction study notes”. It’s pretty clear that the version of this story in Mark 6/Matthew 13 is related to Luke’s, but the placement is totally different. Read Eusebius’ explanation for why Mark’s order sometimes differed. What’s your opinion of what Eusebius said?

G. The Apostle Matthew wrote the narrative framework without specifying anything about Nazareth, Mark got a story from Peter and placed it where he thought it made sense, Luke was concerned about when things happened, researched it, added details and placed the story at the beginning. The editor/translator of Hebrew Matthew was incorporating Mark at this point and copied him. (He didn’t know anything about Luke’s version.) How do all these likely occurrences inform your view of Biblical authority and authorship? Does it encourage you to trust the Bible even more? Or less?

H. Talk about the unbelief described in Luke 4 and Mark 6. What is the lesson we are supposed to take away?

So What & What Now? - Applying the Scriptures

In what ways does the Kingdom of God seem near to you?

How does our unbelief affect the impact God can or chooses to have (See Mark 6:6 & Matthew 13:58)