

Luke 4:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he preached in the synagogues of Galilee.

Analysis

And he preached in the synagogues of Galilee—This summary statement concludes Jesus's initial Galilean ministry phase. The Greek *ekeryssen* (ἐκήρυσσεν, he was preaching) indicates continuous action: Jesus systematically proclaimed the gospel in multiple synagogues throughout the region. *Synagogais* (συναγωγαῖς) refers to local Jewish assemblies for Scripture reading, prayer, and teaching—the primary venue for Jesus's early ministry before increasing opposition.

Galilee (Γαλιλαίας) was the northern region of Israel, considered religiously inferior by Jerusalem's religious elite due to distance from the temple and mixed population including Gentiles ("Galilee of the Gentiles," Isaiah 9:1). Yet Jesus chose this region for His primary ministry, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy (Matthew 4:15-16) and demonstrating the gospel's appeal to the marginalized. The verse's placement after the Nazareth rejection (Luke 4:16-30) and Capernaum ministry (4:31-41) emphasizes Jesus's determination to reach all Galilee despite opposition.

Historical Context

First-century Galilean synagogues served as community centers for Jewish worship, education, and judicial matters. Archaeological excavations at Capernaum, Magdala, and other sites reveal synagogues from Jesus's era. Any qualified Jewish male could be invited to read Scripture and teach (as Jesus was in Nazareth, 4:16), though this privilege was revoked once someone was deemed heretical by local leadership.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's focus on 'inferior' Galilee rather than prestigious Jerusalem challenge your assumptions about where God works most powerfully?
2. What does Jesus's synagogue-based ministry teach about engaging existing religious structures versus creating separate communities?
3. How should Jesus's systematic regional preaching (covering multiple synagogues) inform contemporary church planting and evangelistic strategies?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἥν	κηρύσσων	ἐν	ταῖς	συναγωγαῖς	τῇς
And	he preached	G2784	in	G3588	the synagogues	G3588
G2532	G2258		G1722		G4864	

Γαλιλαίας

of Galilee

G1056

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 4:23 (Parallel theme): And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

Mark 1:39 (Parallel theme): And he preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils.

