

Sidetracked: Kingdom Purpose  
Jonathan Cleveland  
January 21, 2024  
**Reflection & Discussion Questions**

**At times all of us get sidetracked about how to change the world**

\*Do you remember the first time you noticed that things in the world were not as they should be?

\*How could the way we respond to that awareness have the potential to get us sidetracked?

**Jesus begins to tell people about the Kingdom of God and the life he is ushering in**

Read and discuss Luke 4:14-22 (NIV)

*<sup>14</sup> Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup> He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. <sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:*

*<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.*

*He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,*

*<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

*<sup>20</sup> Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. <sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." <sup>22</sup> All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.*

**He next defines the narrow road of changing the world**

Read and discuss Luke 4:23-30 (NIV)

*<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself!' And you will tell me, 'Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'"*

*<sup>24</sup> "Truly I tell you," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. <sup>25</sup> I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. <sup>26</sup> Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. <sup>27</sup> And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian." <sup>28</sup> All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. <sup>29</sup> They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup> But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.*

\*What do these passages say about God's vision for the world?

\*In what ways do we tend to get on the wide path when it comes to working for good in the world?

\*How do these verses narrow the path and call us to counterintuitive ways to change the world?

**The narrow path of the Kingdom vision:**

Is comprehensive in its beauty and in its reach.

Applies to both those we love – and hate.

It requires proximity.

\*How is this narrow path challenging to you?

\*What does extending yourself to 'those people' look like for you right now?

\*What are you sensing about your Kingdom purpose?