

Luke 4:14-22

<sup>14</sup> And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district. <sup>15</sup> And He *began* teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all.

<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> And the <sup>[e]</sup>book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the <sup>[f]</sup>book and found the place where it was written,

<sup>18</sup> “THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME,  
BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR.  
HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES,  
AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND,  
TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED,  
<sup>19</sup> TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.”

<sup>20</sup> And He closed the <sup>[g]</sup>book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. <sup>21</sup> And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your <sup>[h]</sup>hearing.” <sup>22</sup> And all were <sup>[i]</sup>speaking well of Him, and wondering at the <sup>[j]</sup>gracious words which <sup>[k]</sup>were falling from His lips; and they were saying, “Is this not Joseph’s son?”

1. Jesus begins his ministry.
  - a. Jesus moved from the wilderness back to Galilee.
    - i. This is fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.
      1. **Isaiah 9:1-2**
  - b. Jesus walked in the power of the Spirit.
    - i. The same Spirit that anointed him in baptism and delivered him in temptation will now empower him in his ministry.
  - c. News about him spread throughout the country.
    - i. The initial reports about him were good.
2. Jesus returns to his hometown.
  - a. The phrase in the Greek “where he had been brought up” implies that Jesus had been absent for some time.
  - b. Jesus entered the synagogue on the Sabbath as was his custom.
    - i. Jesus began his ministry by preaching first to the Jews.
      1. **John 4:22**
      2. **Romans 1:16**
3. Jewish synagogue practices
  - a. A priest would first read one of 155 lessons from the Torah.
    - i. It was designed to have the entire Pentateuch completed every 3 years.
  - b. Up to 5 people could then read a selection from the prophets.
    - i. Any person could read a passage.
    - ii. The passage was read while standing.
      1. A blessing was normally pronounced before the reading.
      2. According to tradition, he was supposed to read at least 3 verses.
        - a. It was permissible to skip around in the prophets but not in the Torah.
      3. Then the scroll was given back to the “chazzan” or attendant to the priest.
4. The first sermon of Jesus:
  - a. Jesus takes the scroll of Isaiah and reads from 2 passages.

**i. Isaiah 61:1-2**

**ii. Isaiah 58:6**

- b. Then following custom, he hands the scroll to the chazzan and sits back down.
- c. Jesus then declares himself to be the Messiah in fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy.
  - i.** The Jews knew that these passages referred to the Messiah.
- d. The congregation is stunned in silence at first most likely because of the power and authority of Jesus' teaching.

**i. John 7:46**

- e. They are amazed at his words and appear to be excited about his message.

**5. The ministry of Jesus revealed.**

- a. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me"
  - i.** As in the baptism and temptation, the ministry of Jesus is bathed in the power of the Holy Spirit.
  - ii.** We know that no one is saved without the work of the Holy Spirit.
    - 1.** The Spirit convicts us of Sin (**John 16:8**)
    - 2.** We are born of the Spirit (**John 3:8**)
    - 3.** The Spirit declares our sonship (**Romans 8:16**)
- b. "anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor"
  - i.** Jesus came to elevate the low and the meek
    - 1. Mathew 5:3**
- c. "proclaim release to the captives"
  - i.** Because of the Gospel of Christ we have been set free
    - 1. John 8:36**
- d. "recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed"
  - i.** Formerly we were blind and oppressed.
    - 1. 2 Corinthians 4:4**
- e. "proclaim the favorable year of the Lord"
  - i.** With these words the Messianic Age begins.
    - 1. We can now enter into the Lord's favor** (**Ephesians 2:1-5**)

**6. What about now?**

- a. Jesus declared his ministry in Nazareth but he gave this ministry to us (**2 Corinthians 5:18-19**)
- b. Are we being obedient to the ministry of Christ?
  - i.** Are we proclaiming freedom for the captive, sight for the blind, release for the oppressed?

**7. Conclusion:**

- a. **We have been given the ministry of reconciliation. We may either ignore the commands of our Lord and live in the comfort of the church or take the message of freedom to those who are lost and dying. For the follower of Jesus, there can be only one choice.**

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