

Luke 4 pt 2

Luke 4: 14-21

¹⁴ Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. ¹⁵ And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

¹⁶ So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. ¹⁷ And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ **“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”**

²⁰ Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. ²¹ And He began to say to them, **“Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”**

1. In our last study, Jesus is victorious over the temptations in the wilderness
2. Luke writes that He returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee...
 - a. Although He is God
 - i. He emptied Himself of using divine power and relied on the Holy Spirit
 - b. Ah, dear brethren, if our Lord Jesus needed “the power of the Spirit”, how much more do you and I need it! We have no power of our own, but he was the Son of God. He was a divine Teacher, and yet, when he went to his work, it was “in the power of the Spirit.” Tarry, brother, till you have that power; it is of no use for you to go without it.
(Spurgeon)
3. Going to the synagogue was His custom; He's been doing it for years

- a. If there was one person who didn't need to go, it was Jesus
 - b. He may have argued that the "religious system" was corrupt, or that He didn't need the instruction, but instead, He made His way on the Sabbath to the place of prayer (**Wiersbe**)
 - c. Gathering in church was His custom
 - d. **Why do we need to go to church?**
 - e. **... two quick reasons -**
 - 1. **Because Jesus did -**
 - a. He made it His custom ... to be in the Synagogue...
 - b. So if that was the pattern for Jesus that should also be the pattern for my life as well
 - 2. **Because Jesus tells us to**
 - a. **Heb. 10: 24,25** *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*
 - f. Like coals in a fire - together we burn bright especially when stirred up - but alone - fires goes out! (**Salvato**)
- 4. So Jesus went to the synagogue
 - 5. A synagogue is a meeting place for the Jews for them to worship, handle legal issues, were elder's judge cases...
 - a. It's a home away from the Temple for those who lived too far
 - b. 10 men were required to have a synagogue

- c. Each synagogue was led by someone respected in the community
 - d. His job was to make sure things ran smoothly and delegated the rotation of reading and preaching
 - e. The custom was any respected visiting teacher would have the honor of reading & preaching that day
6. It's helpful to understand the order of the service in the synagogue
- a. They opened with a prayer for God's blessing
 - i. They would recite the Shema **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**
 - ii. 4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
 - iii. Then they would have set prayers
 - 1. Tephilla (also called the Shemoneh Esreh and the eighteen benedictions)
 - iv. Then comes the reading of God's law (Torah)
 - v. Then a reading of the prophets
 - vi. These texts were read in Hebrew and translated in Aramaic, the dominant language of the region
 - vii. Then one of the men or a visiting Rabbi would expound on the readings with a sermon

viii. Service is then closed with a benediction by someone else

7. Jesus visited many synagogues and taught, being glorified by all
 - a. People loved hearing Jesus teach
 - i. Before preaching and healing, Jesus taught the people
 - ii. His heart is for people to understand, to get a hold of His truth
8. When He came to Nazareth, Jesus went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day
 - a. He was invited by the leader of that synagogue to read and preach
 - b. He opens Isaiah 61 speaking of the coming Messiah
 - i. All of the worshipping Jews were waiting for the Messiah
 1. The One who would bring salvation to the nation
 2. The One who will deliver them and make them free, blessed and prosperous once again
 - a. By removing the yoke of Rome
 - b. Regaining their glory again like in the days of Solomon
 - i. They had an earthly freedom in mind
 3. So they were waiting expectantly for the Messiah
9. Jesus opens to Isaiah; reads a portion about the Messiah (Isaiah 61), closes the book, gives it back to the attendant and sits down
 - a. Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing

- b. By sitting down, He expounded on the passage, but that's not recorded for us here

10. We'll look at the response and dialogue that happens as a result next time,

- a. Today, let's look at what Jesus said

- b. **The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me**

- i. **To preach the gospel to the poor,**
- ii. **To heal the broken hearted**
- iii. **To proclaim liberty to the captives (prisoners)**
- iv. **The recovery of sight to the blind**
- v. **To set at liberty to those who are oppressed**
- vi. **To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD (year of Jubilee)(time of Messiah's arrival)**

11. What kind of opening statement is that?

12. That's not how people begin a new ministry

- a. The religious do things a little differently

- i. If you want to be known as a good Jewish Rabbi
 1. Go to Jerusalem
 2. Rub shoulders with the movers and shakers
 - a. Become a member of the Pharisees or Sadducees
 3. Perhaps hold a position in the Temple
 4. Visit the wealthy for good donations
 - a. Don't forget to wear the proper attire

- i. Never be seen with sinners
- ii. Make sure you preach what everyone else is preaching

1. Tickle people's ears; keep them happy
2. Don't rock the boat

13. Jesus catches everyone off guard

- a. He does things in a whole different way
 - i. He doesn't begin in Jerusalem
 - ii. He doesn't rub shoulders with the well known
 - iii. Doesn't look for a position in the Temple
 - iv. He doesn't cater to the wealthy for money
1. He doesn't have on the long garb of the religious
2. **He associates with sinners publically**
 - a. He preaches a very new message
 - i. A message with good news to the poor

14. Jesus goes back to the Word of God & obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit

- a. God's heart is revealed in scripture

I. Why did Jesus make these comments?

II. How Jesus will deal with each of these?

III. What is the application for us as individuals and as a church body

I. Why did Jesus make these comments?

1. **The 5 following issues are the effects of sin:**

- a. Poverty
- b. Sorrow

- c. Bondage
- d. Suffering
- e. Oppression

i. When man walked away from God, he lost his identity, purpose and value

1. Man became spiritually poor, sorrowful, in bondage...

2. God's main objective is redeeming & restoring man

3. Redeem from poverty, sorrow, bondage, suffering, oppression

a. These are what people suffer from today when they're distant from God

4. And that's just in this life

a. When eternity comes, it's a non-ending pain

5. And man doesn't have an answer to solve this problem

6. It takes the Hand of God to help man out of his mess

7. **But before God can help man out of his mess, man must realize he's in a mess**

8. That's why the commandments were introduced, to show that man is not able to keep the law and breaking one of the commands is breaking all of them

2. Jesus shows up and declares what Isaiah said the Messiah would do

a. Jesus is not doing His own thing His own way

b. He's following God's heart and speaking God's Word

- c. **The LORD as anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor**
 - i. **Matthew 5** Blessed are the poor in spirit...
 - ii. Who is Jesus talking about?
 - iii. He is speaking about the true spiritual condition of all people
 - iv. Only some realize that they are poor in their spirit, but many don't understand that
 - v. You can be a millionaire and poor in spirit
 - vi. Or you may not have a dollar to change and are just as poor
 - vii. Poverty of spirit is a result of people missing the mark and not in fellowship with God
 - viii. Do you recall the man who journeyed from Jerusalem to Jericho
 - 1. Thieves stripped him of his clothing
 - a. Wounded him, departed and left him half dead
 - 2. That's what sin does, it lures you away from fellowship with God and strips you of everything meaningful
 - ix. That experience leads to a state of sorrow and grief (brokenhearted)
 - 1. Sorrow leads to more sorrow because the harder you try to do good, the worse you get
 - 2. When you walk away and do bad, the emptier you feel
 - x. Sorrow leads to bondage which is something you get hooked on to try and kill the pain
 - 1. Bondage to things like alcohol, drugs, sex, pornography

2. People get trapped in this as they don't see a way out

- xi. Now a person is suffering under the weight of that poverty, sorrow, bondage
- xii. Oppression is next (Controlled by something in a cruel way for a prolonged time)
- xiii. Here a person is taunted by the enemy that God doesn't love you and will never love you

1. You've missed the mark and way out of reach for God

3. **The Good News is Jesus stands up among us today and says**

- a. Anyone poor, in spirit? (Opposite of proud in spirit!)
- b. Anyone brokenhearted over their sin?
- c. Anyone need liberty from [any addictions, bad habits] phobias, insecurities, worry, anxiety, jealousy, envy, temper, wrong desire[s]...
- d. Anyone need released from a prison of despair, depression...?
- e. Anyone need released from a prison of [a guilty] conscience?
- f. I'm here to fulfill this prophecy and set the captive free

4. As long as you think you have something, you are lost

- a. Those who realize they have absolutely nothing, those who are the ones that Messiah comes for
- b. Those that think they are doing alright and don't need anything are in serious danger
- c. ... Revelation 3 17 Jesus says, "Because you say I am rich and have become wealthy and have need of nothing, and you do not know that you wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,"

- d. [and to these, Jesus is saying]... I can't help you because you don't understand your desperation. You think you're rich, you think you have what you need, you don't understand. You're poor and miserable and blind and naked. (**MacArthur**)
- e. May God open our eyes to see our need for Him to liberate us

II. How Jesus will deal with each of these?

1. To preach the gospel to the poor:

- a. I'm not simply going to bring good news to those who acknowledge their poverty;
 - i. **I am the good news**
- b. I'm not going to hand you a prescription and say "good luck"
 - i. **I am the prescription**
 - 1. An element of the good news is that you don't have to do it on your own anymore
 - a. I am with you...
 - b. I will reside in you...
 - c. I will bring restoration to you...

2. To heal the brokenhearted:

- a. When your sin has you broken, I'm going to heal you by giving you a new heart
- b. When you're hurting because of what others have done, I will be the healing balm that you place on your heart and find comfort
- c. I will restore to you the joy of your salvation
- d. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool

3. To proclaim liberty to the captives:

- a. People are held captive by their sin, but I am their victory
 - i. I will take their sin nature and nail it to the Cross
 - 1. You are now free

4. **Recovery of sight to the blind:**
 - a. Those who cannot see will receive a new perspective on life and eternity.
 - i. I restore sight to the blind
 1. God deals with each one of us uniquely
 - a. To one, He speaks a Word
 - b. To another, He anoints and says wash
 - c. To another, He takes by the hand and touches again
 2. But we all have this promise: Those who sat in darkness have seen a great light
5. **To set at liberty those who are oppressed:**
 - a. Any oppression by the devil is broken because at the Cross, the enemies head was crushed.
 - i. You are now free
6. "To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."
 - a. It's the year the Messiah arrives.
 - b. It alludes to a great event in Israel's history called the Jubilee Year.
 - c. Back in Leviticus 25 the Jews were instructed that every fifty years there was a Jubilee Year.
 - d. The fiftieth year was a Jubilee year.
 - e. All slaves were freed, all debts were cancelled. All property returned to its original owner
 - i. It's a complete work

III. What is the application for us as individuals and as a church?

1. Jesus is still healing like this today
 - a. He's still doing it in the church for believers who get weak along the way
 - b. Those who are poor and broken, captive or blind, The LORD is still at work

- c. But He comes to those who invite Him
 - d. He longs to bring us comfort as He did with Paul & the disciples
- 2. **2 Cor 1:4** who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.
- 3. That same anointing of Jesus now falls on the believers to carry out in the power of the Holy Spirit
 - a. **John 20:21** "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so send I you"
- 4. **That's for us as a body**
 - a. Each of us has a unique gifting within the body to help people with
 - b. It's often left to those "professionals" to do the work
 - c. My job is to equip you to go and do the work
 - i. To teach you what God Word declares as we're encouraged together
 - ii. One person cannot and should not do it alone
 - iii. You are uniquely designed to serve people in a special way
- 5. What should we do?
 - a. Tarry until you are endued with power from on high
 - b. We need to do it in the Power of the Holy Spirit
 - i. That's why we're calling on the church to pray
 - 1. A call to prayer

6. With this understanding we will have power and purpose
 - a. So we don't meet for the sake of meeting
 - b. We're meeting for the sake of receiving what we need from the Lord so we can extend that same touch of grace to others
 - c. **This is the ministry**
 - i. To preach the gospel to the poor
 - ii. To heal the brokenhearted
 - iii. To proclaim liberty to the captives
 - iv. Recovery of sight to the blind
 - v. To set at liberty those who are oppressed