

His Gracious Words

Luke 4:16-21

Luke 4:16-21 – “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. And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, ‘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, TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.’ And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, ‘Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’”

Introduction:

- A. The questions about Jesus never seem to end. People want to know who he was and why He was here. The answers range from Jesus was a good man but not God, to “He came to show us how to live, to salvation.
- B. But most have never looked at what was prophesied about His purpose. His purpose was far deeper than most think.

I. “...To Preach The Gospel To The Poor”

- A. Jesus showed compassion for and was received by the poor
 - 1. Not many rich obey the gospel - Matt. 19:23; 1 Cor. 1:26

Matthew 19:23 - “And Jesus said to His disciples, ‘Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.’”

1 Corinthians 1:26 - “For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;”

- B. Isaiah 61:1 refers to the “meek” (KJV) or “afflicted” (NASB)
- C. Jesus has in mind those who are “poor in spirit” Matt. 5:3, 5

Matthew 5:3 - “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:5 - “Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.”

II. “...To Proclaim Release To The Captives”

- A. Those who need the gospel are prisoners
 - 1. Prisoners to sin - Rom. 6:6

Romans 6:6 - knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;

- 2. Prisoners to death - Rom. 6:9

Romans 6:9 - knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.

- 3. Christ sets free from spiritual bondage - Rom. 6:16-22

Romans 6:16-22 – “Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. Therefore,

what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.”

4. He liberates those who were “helpless” on their own - Rom. 5:6

Romans 5:6 – “For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.”

B. Jesus offers freedom from sin and death - Jn. 8:32; 2 Cor. 3:17

John 8:32 - “you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free”

2 Corinthians 3:17 - “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty”

III. *“To Proclaim... Recovery Of Sight To The Blind”*

A. To open the eyes of the spiritually blind - John 9:49; 12:40

John 9:49 - “And Jesus ‘For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.’ Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, ‘We are not blind too, are we?’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

John 12:40 - “HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART, SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT SEE WITH THEIR EYES AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED AND I HEAL THEM.”

IV. *“... To Set Free Those Who Are Oppressed”*

A. To liberate those who have been crushed and broken by sin

1. Sin destroys
2. Sin brings misery
3. Sin brings shame
4. Sin brings guilt
5. Sin “presses down” on the contrite

B. Christ restores those who come to Him

C. He relieves the pressure...

V. *“... To Proclaim The Favorable Year Of The Lord”*

A. An allusion to the Year of Jubilee - Lev. 25:8-17

Leviticus 25:8-17 – “You are also to count off seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years, so that you have the time of the seven sabbaths of years, namely, forty-nine years. You shall then sound a ram's horn abroad on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the day of atonement you shall sound a horn all through your land. You shall thus consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim a release through the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, and each of you shall return to his own property, and each of you shall return to his family. You shall have the fiftieth year as a jubilee; you shall not sow, nor reap its aftergrowth, nor gather in from its untrimmed vines. For it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to you. You shall eat its crops out of the field. On this year of jubilee each of you shall return to his own property. If you make a sale, moreover, to your friend or buy from your friend's hand, you shall not wrong one another. 'Corresponding to the number of years after the jubilee, you shall buy from your friend; he is to sell to you according to the number of years of crops. In proportion to the extent of the years you shall increase its price, and in proportion to the fewness of the years you shall diminish its price, for it is a number of crops he is selling to you. So you shall not wrong one another, but you shall fear your God; for I am the LORD your God.”

1. Bond servants were set free and seized land was returned

2. “intended to typify the messianic liberation” - Butler
- B. To announce that the promised deliverance has come
1. The prophet Isaiah - Isa 29:18-19

Isaiah. 29:18-19 - “On that day the deaf will hear words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see. The afflicted also will increase their gladness in the Lord, and the needy of mankind will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.”

2. “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Luke 4:22 - “And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips”

3. “To those who feel their spiritual poverty, whose hearts are broken through a sense of their sins, who see themselves tied and bound with the chains of many evil habits, who sit in the darkness of guilt and misery, without a friendly hand to lead them in the way they should go – to these, the gospel of the grace of Christ is a pleasing sound...” Clarke’s Commentary

Conclusion:

- A. **And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips” - Luke 4:22**
- B. Are you tired of stumbling in darkness?
- C. Is the weight of sin more than you can bear?
- D. Do you want to be set free?
- E. Are you willing to humble yourself?
- F. Jesus has good news for you