

Setting the Captives Free

Living the Liturgical Year

Luke 4:14-21

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” **Luke 4:18-19**

REFLECTION

These two verses in Luke, delivered by Jesus on the Sabbath day in his home synagogue, are an amazing declaration of his clarity and purpose. Of all that he could have said, these two verses describe in full what his ministry is all about. **Do you have that kind of clarity in your life, as to why you are here, and what you’re about?**

Christianity spread like wildfire among marginalized groups like women and slaves, regarded at the time as second class citizens. The spiritually poor are equally prioritized, as Jesus’ love cuts across all financial lines. Even his followers questioned the deservedness of this group, not understanding that financial wealth doesn’t make us spiritually rich. **How can you relate to the poor in spirit?**

As John 20:21 tells us, *Peace be with you, as the Father has sent me, so I send you.* We are called to do the work of Jesus in our own, unique way. **Read verses 18-19 above, and think about how Jesus might be commissioning you individually, and Covenant as a whole, to do his work in each specific way.**

It is important to see in our polarized society that we don’t get to decide if we want to be a social justice church, or an evangelical church. Rather, ours is a holistic call to help both the poor **and** the spiritually oppressed. When we don’t have a true sense of the love of God, we find meaning in our work, achievements, and successes. **Where do you need to be “made well,” so that you can be prepared to help others?**

Lord, may your light shine in the dark places of our lives, so that we can fully accept your love. Show us how we can each follow our call to proclaim good news to the poor, set the captives free, restore sight to the blind, and proclaim your favor to all people. Amen.