

## Fresh Starts Found Here

(Luke 4:14-21)

### Jesus is on-mission [Luke 4:14-18]

[Series] Resonate: Tune into Jesus' frequency to amplify the gospel in your life & church, and to impact the culture.

- [14] Jesus was baptized, filled & led by the Holy Spirit; now He is empowered by the Spirit to do ministry.
  - [15] Jesus' ministry: Preaching & teaching throughout the countryside around Galilee.
  - People's response: They are convicted, repent & rejoice... and give glory & worship to Jesus.
- [16] Jesus returns to His hometown church, "as was His custom."
  - He regularly attended corporate worship in obedience to His Father & Scriptures.
  - It was probably a small, under-resourced synagogue with no rabbi of note
  - That's how Jesus grew in wisdom, stature & favor with men & God [cf. Luke 2:40, 52].
  - Application: For us, it has less to do with what church we're in, & more to do with whether or not we avail ourselves of the opportunities God provides through that church.
- [17] Recognized as an amazing rabbi, He's given the honor of reading Scriptures & preaching in worship.
  - [18] The Holy Spirit has anointed Jesus as the Messiah (Anointed One).
  - Purpose: To proclaim good news of release & freedom as the good, messianic King.
- Context [Quoting Isa 61:1-2, 58:6]: Deliverance for exiles; the dawn of God's new age of salvation. 2 key concepts:
  - [Isa 40-66] God the Father sends God the Son as "the Suffering Servant."
  - [Isa 58-61] Year of Jubilee: Pattern set by God, where slaves freed, prisoners released, debts forgiven.
  - Jubilee is coming: A time where everyone gets a fresh start through the Suffering Servant.

### Good news for the poor

- Jesus speaks first to the poor.
  - He was poor; His friends/family were poor; His hometown is poor.
  - If you are poor, you are at a distinct disadvantage in society & life.
  - Religions of the day favored those who were rich.
  - He offers the same grace, salvation, love of God, forgiveness of sin, seat in heaven for both rich & poor.
- Jesus is not against the rich; when it comes to money, there are 4 types of people:
  - Unrighteous rich: Wealthy, but still cheat, hoard, don't give, not generous. Treat money as "mine" vs. God's.
  - Righteous rich: Work hard, wise, love God, by God's grace have much & are good stewards of it, generous.
  - Unrighteous poor: Sluggards who are lazy, drunk, foolish, gambling, chase fantasies/get-rich-quick schemes, have a sense of entitlement, & come to ruin [cf. Prov 6, 13, 19, 20, 22, 26].
  - Jesus speaks to the righteous poor: They're not poor because of sin; they love God, work hard, honest, humble, generous as able.
- What does God have for the righteous poor in Christ?
  - Complete equality in the sight of God through the person & work of Jesus.
  - The Body of Christ to care for & serve you.
  - Christianity is not built on an economic model where you get what you pay for; it is built on Jesus giving grace completely & equally to all.
  - Application: You may not have riches, but now God gives Himself to you as the greatest gift of all.

## **Freedom for captives**

1. Pardon for prisoners: Not of war or crime, but of slavery to sin & the evil of others.
  - a. There is still slavery around the world that we need to fight because people belong to God, not other people.
  - b. There is still slavery here in the US, in the form of the sex industry & prostitution.
  - c. If you participate in pornography, strip clubs & prostitution, you contribute to modern-day slavery.
2. Freedom from sin & spiritual captivity
  - a. Self-selecting slavery: Drugs, alcohol, others' opinions, gambling, pornography, anger, food, entertainment, foolishness, high-risk behavior, compulsive spending are all slave masters we choose to rule over us.
  - b. We don't just need behavior modification & self-esteem, we need Jesus' salvation & His Spirit's power.
  - c. Application: In relationships & safe community, do you practice & share in Jesus' freedom & redemption?
  - d. Because of Jesus & the power of the Holy Spirit, captives can & will be set free.

## **Sight for the blind**

1. Literal physical healing: the fulfillment of prophecy & proof that God has come [cf. Luke 7:18-23].
  - a. Application: [Jas 5:13-16] We pray for the sick, knowing God can & does heal. We pray; God heals.
2. Jesus also heals spiritual blindness
  - a. Seeing, light & darkness are also metaphors with spiritual overtones [cf. Luke 2:32; 8:16-17; 11:33-36; 16:8].
  - b. We can be spiritually blind to the goodness of God in Christ.
  - c. Jesus opens blind eyes to understand Scriptures, to know, love & belong to Him.

## **Release for the abused**

1. Oppressed: Literally, those who are broken into pieces, shattered, abused.
  - a. Also those who are neglected, abandoned, lonely, crushed by the weight of life's circumstances.
  - b. Jesus not only proclaims release from oppression, He delivers it.
2. Application: Do you feel & show Jesus' empathy to those whose lives have been shattered?
  - a. Do you take them into your church community & help pick up the pieces?

## **Conclusion: The time of the Lord's favor [Luke 4:19-21]**

1. [19] Year of Jubilee: Favor, release, joy, gladness.
  - a. [Lev 25:10] Every 50<sup>th</sup> year, a ram's horn trumpet resounds after the Day of Atonement.
  - b. Once the sacrifice for sin is paid, Jubilee ushers in a fresh start.
  - c. Jesus fulfills the sacrifice; Jesus ushers in the time of the Lord's favor.
  - d. Note: Jesus intentionally does not proclaim the coming of the Lord's justice yet [cf. Isa 61:2b].
    - i. Future judgment will come with Jesus' second coming [cf. Rev 6:10; 19:11-21; 20:11-15].
    - ii. What is here is the time of the Lord's favor & release with Jesus' first coming.
2. [20-21] How will this be fulfilled?
  - a. [21] Jesus is the fulfillment of all Scriptures; it's all about Jesus.
  - b. The dawn of the Kingdom: A King who takes care of the poor, captives, blind, oppressed.
  - c. Until Jesus returns, the Church must participate in putting broken lives back together through Jesus.
3. When will this be fulfilled?
  - a. As He rolls up the scroll, the first words of Jesus' sermon: "Today."
  - b. Application: Give your sin & hurt to Jesus today. Commit to gathering with people in worship at church today. Commit to reading Scriptures as Jesus did, today. Confess & repent to Him today.