

Sermon: Will You Reject or Receive the Good News?

Series: *Luke: The Gospel for Everyone.*

Scripture: Luke 4:14-30.

Date: March 10, 2024

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) Compare Isaiah 61:2 to Luke 4:18-19. How are they different? Why do you think Jesus left out this phrase in his reading: “and the day of vengeance of our God”? Why must we see God as bringing both “the year of favor (grace), and the “day of vengeance?”

2. What does this passage teach us about us?

a) In Luke 4 Jesus is claiming to be the Jewish Messiah. The sermon talked about how this was also a claim to be God. Are there any claims of Jesus that you struggle to accept/believe? (For example do you believe that Jesus is God?)

b) The people of Nazareth assumed they were already righteous and deserving of Jesus’ miracles simply because they were Jews, so they were full of wrath when Jesus suggested that they just as immoral as the ancient Israelites who rejected God’s prophets in the days of Elijah and Elisha. In what ways might we do the same thing? How does our self-righteousness keep us from trusting in Christ from day to day?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) Jesus says that he has come to proclaim 1) Good news to the poor, 2) Liberty to the captives, 3) Recovery of sight to the blind, and 4) set at liberty those who are oppressed.

How do each of these point to a **spiritual** need that is met for us in Christ? (Read also Mt. 5:3; John 8:31-34; 2 Cor. 4:3-6).

How do these point to a future kingdom of peace and justice (Jubilee)? How can we reflect that kingdom of justice even now?

APPLICATION

a) Re-read Luke 4:18-19. Everyone who is in Christ can say these same words – “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.” Where can/will you proclaim and live out the good news? Be specific.

PRAYER

- Praise God for his “year of favor” that allows us to share in his grace and mercy.
- Confess ways that you rejected Christ’s salvation with your self-righteousness.
- Thank Jesus for both present spiritual “Jubilee” and the coming Kingdom of Jubilee.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to proclaim the good news to those who are Poor in Spirit.