

# A FULFILLING VOCATION Sunday School- May 11, 2014

## Unifying Topic: JESUS' MISSION ON EARTH

### Lesson Text

#### **I. Jesus Begins His Ministry (Luke 4:14-15)**

#### **II. Jesus Proclaims His Purpose (Luke 4:16-21)**

**The Main Thought:** And he began to say unto them. This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears (Luke 4:21), KJV).

**Unifying Principle:** Many people wrestle with issues around finding or choosing a job. What considerations should drive their decision-making process when it comes to a vocation? Jesus' identity and mission was informed by the prophetic tradition of the Hebrew Scriptures.

**Lesson Aim:** To review how Jesus lived an intentional life focused on fulfilling His mission on earth.

**Life Aim:** To live a life pleasing to God by seeking and accomplishing all that God has called, appointed, approved, and anointed us to do.

4:14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

4:15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.

4:16 And 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 for to read.

4:17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

4:19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

4:20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

4:21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

### **HISTORY:**

At the beginning of Luke 4, Jesus is full of the Holy Ghost after being baptized in the Jordan by John the Baptist. That same Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil for 40 days and 40 nights. The reasons: (1) to spend time alone with God; (2) to be tried and tested. In the wilderness He ate nothing; therefore afterwards, He was hungry. The devil tries to take advantage of the moment to tempt Jesus to turn stones into bread. Jesus has strength to answer him by saying *"It is written, man shall not live by bread alone but by every Word of God."* The devil does not give up, he takes Jesus onto a high mountain, showing Him all the kingdoms of the world, saying all this power I can give you. The one catch is that Jesus must worship the devil. Jesus musters the strength to say, *"Get thee behind me Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve."* Now the devil brings Jesus to Jerusalem, sets Him on the pinnacle (a high roof) of the temple saying, *"If you are the Son of God, cast (jump off) from this place, for it is written God will give his angels charge over you to keep you: and their hands will bear you up lest at any time you dash your foot against a stone."* Well how thoughtful the devil is. (Ha Ha); and even trying to quote scripture. Stay alert brothers and sisters. The devil does not care about your well-being! Jesus constantly keeps His composure by allowing the Word to fulfill all power. He says, *"Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."* The devil couldn't do anymore but leave for only a season. The temptations were in a different order than in Matthew 4, but they were the same in significance. Jesus wins every round. He passed every test!

### **LESSON:**

#### **Luke 4:14-15 Jesus Begins His Ministry**

4:14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about. It does not say that the angels ministered to Jesus as it did in Matthew. But we do know that Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Spirit and He returns now into Galilee with the power of the Spirit. The Spirit never leaves, no matter what test or trial we go through. His power produced a hedge around Jesus. The Word of God battled every force or dart of the devil! Therefore, the devil could not penetrate the hedge or the

Word of God. If it's for Jesus, it's for us! Yes there are tests we will have to pass before entering into ministry because the devil does not like the saints of God; does not like the Word being spread. So, Put on your armor!

**4:15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.** Practically every Jewish village had a synagogue. They were used to instruct in the Old Testament. When Jesus taught as in the following account, He pointed to the fulfillment of the Messianic Scriptures in Himself and was glorified by all.

## **Luke 4:16-21 Jesus Proclaims His Purpose**

**4:16 And 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 for to read.** Jesus is in the town where He had been brought up, that is, Nazareth. It's situated at the southern edge of the hill country of Galilee overlooking Jezreel Valley. Everyone knew Him as the carpenter's son. This is where He attended services every week. And as His custom, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath Day (Saturday). At the synagogue, the leader often invited a visiting rabbi to read the Scriptures and to teach. They surely had been hearing good things about Him and how all had been glorifying Him. Here, Jesus stands up to read. He had to have been asked, because Jesus is never out of order.

**4:17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,**— It was the right book (scroll) handed to Him; the right passage to read, and it was the right timing. Jesus began His ministry by preaching in His hometown of Nazareth, coming from the book of the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah had written in the Old Testament introducing the Promised One to rule, and therefore, the Jewish rabbis had interpreted that passage to refer to the coming Messiah. Jesus opened the book and found the place where Isaiah had written about Him—Isaiah 61:1-2a

**4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,**— This passage explains and describes all that Jesus would be doing. We know that Jesus had returned with the power of the Spirit of the Lord. Therefore, Jesus lets us know what happens when called:

- When God calls, one is anointed. God anoints and equips the messenger with His Spirit. The Spirit of the Lord was upon Jesus; all around Him; and in Him.
- When God calls, one is anointed to preach the gospel, the Good News to the poor (**poor in material possessions and the poor in spirit**).
- When God calls, one is anointed to heal (**bind up**) the brokenhearted (**crushed by grief, diseased, weakened, shattered, opposed...**). This refers to hearts that have been **broken by sin and guilt**.
- When God calls, one is anointed to preach deliverance to the captives (**prisoners of war, exiles, and those under Satan's bondage**), recovering of sight to the blind (**spiritually and physically blind**).
- When God calls, he is anointed to set at liberty to them that are bruised (**physically, mentally, emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually bruised**). They may be disabled, injured, wounded, hurting, afflicted, and battered.

Jesus also lets us know that He is declaring His purpose. Jesus was to preach to two classes of people: (1) to the poor; (2) to the captives. And He was to minister in a threefold ministry: **heal the brokenhearted, recover sight to the blind, and set at liberty the bruised (oppressed)**.

**4:19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.** This would be the Year of Jubilee; the age or day of salvation.

- When God calls, one is anointed to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

**4:20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.** After reading just two verses, Jesus abruptly stopped, closed the book, handed it to the minister, and sat down. Why? Because the last part of the verse in Isaiah had to do with judgment and Jesus' present ministry was salvation, not judgment. His future ministry would be to judge the world. All their eyes were fixed and spellbound upon Him!

**4:21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.** His voice pierced the air of

the room when He began to say: *"This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears."* The people had always thought of the Messiah coming, but not today; not this day! Jesus was proclaiming that He was **the** coming Messiah and all of the Scripture of Isaiah was fulfilled in Him! He was proclaiming that:

- He was the One upon whom the Spirit abode.
- He was the One anointed to preach the gospel to the poor and captives.
- He was the One who came to heal the brokenhearted.
- He was the One who came to give sight to the blind.
- He was the One who came to free the bruised.
- He was the One who came to preach the acceptable year of the Lord, the age of salvation.

The Scripture was fulfilled in their ears whether they believed or not.

#### **SUMMARY:**

Jesus had come out of the wilderness, full of the Spirit's power into Galilee" He had defeated Satan with the Word of God, proving that He has power over temptation. He taught in many of the synagogues where they began to glorify Him which caused His fame to spread (4:14-15).

Jesus is now in Nazareth, His hometown, and enters into the synagogue on the Sabbath Day, and teaches from the book of Isaiah. The book of the prophet Isaiah was placed in his hands. Jesus found the words he wanted to read, which spoke of Himself, saying, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."* His ministry is not one which belongs only to Him, but to the Godhead. He comes anointed by the Spirit of the Lord. He is God's Evangelist, that the poor in spirit might know the Good News of salvation in Him. He is ready to restore spiritual life to the broken in spirit; forgiveness (deliverance) is poured out to those who are slaves of sin. Those in darkness will see a great light, bringing liberty to those bruised. These words of Jesus reveal the work of redemption in the life of those for whom He shed His precious blood. When Christ said that He came *"to preach the acceptable year of the Lord,"* He was declaring that salvation was manifested in Him. Jesus, having finished reading the passage from Isaiah, closed the book and sat down; *"And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him."* His words pierced the hearts of his listeners; for he said that the Scriptures which they heard, was fulfilled before their very eyes. (4:16-21).

#### **APPLICATION:**

The Holy Spirit is moving among us to fulfill our purpose and mission. Let us pray for listening ears and receiving hearts as the Holy Spirit teaches us of Christ our Savior.