

The Gospel According to Luke- Part 2

REJECTED IN NAZARETH

PART 1

Prophecy fulfilled

READ LUKE 4:14-30, ISAIAH 61:1-2

INTRODUCTION

Jesus, after a year passes between verse 13 and verse 14, heads to Galilee for more public ministry. He sits down in the Synagogue in Nazareth, where He grew up. Rabbi's who were visiting different areas during this time were invited to speak to the people and read the daily Scripture. This particular day, the synagogue in Nazareth was going through Isaiah chapter 61. This is a beautiful passage that deals with the Messiah and His ministry to the people. It was no coincidence that Jesus was there that day to read this particular passage and to give a sermon on Himself.

We see in Isaiah a prophecy concerning the Messiah and what He would be anointed to do. He is to minister to the people. Specifically, He would minister to the lowest of the low. The sick, the widows, the poor. These are people that had very little value in traditional Jewish culture. He was going to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord and these are the things that Jesus did while He was on earth. He spent His time ministering to the brokenhearted, giving freedom to the captives, freeing those who were in chains. These are the things that He was anointed to do.

That leaves us asking the question of what it means for us to be anointed. If Jesus is our perfect example on how we are to live our lives as His children, we have been given clear instruction on what we are to spend our time doing. We are not to be focused on our own comforts. We should not be consumed with our own passions. We have specific tasks that we have been given to perform and those tasks are the same as the ones that Jesus was here to perform. He was not here for His own glory (though, we do glorify Him) but, for the glorification of the Father. That is our purpose and our calling as well.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Take some time and discuss why you think it was important that Rabbi's would stand while reading the Scriptures and sit while teaching them.
2. Jesus only reads the first half of verse 2 in Isaiah, why? What does the second part of that verse reference? Why did He leave it out?
3. Why do you think God chose to send His Son to minister to the broken and needy? Who did Jesus come for? (see Luke 3)
4. What does it mean for us to be anointed? What are we anointed to do? Does that anointing change from Christian to Christian? Why or why not?
5. How often do you spend time serving the downtrodden and the broken? How can you adjust your schedule to minister to those who need it more?

WRAP UP

Jesus had specific purpose in His time on earth. It was not a long time to be here, ministering to those who needed Him and it wouldn't be long before He would no longer be here anymore in the flesh. It was imperative that His disciples understood what their purpose was to be. They would be the ones to carry the message through the power of the Spirit. We are to be the ambassadors of Christ during our lifetime. We are to minister to His children. We are to be the mouthpiece of God. It has been given to us to perform this task. Let us perform it well.