**PP Summer in the Son: *Luke***

**Luke 4:16-30 *The Mission of Jesus* 6/19-20/2022**

The Puritans used to say that God had only one Son, and He made Him a preacher

They said this, I believe, because preaching was the primary ministry of Jesus on earth

Jesus said as much, **PP *“Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is***

***why I came out.”* Mark 1:38**

Luke tells us in **4:14**, that Jesus went ***‘in the power of the Spirit to Galilee’***, in northern Israel

The region of Galilee was about 50 miles north to south and 25 miles east to west, and at the

southernmost tip of the Sea of Galilee

It was densely populated and its people known for being innovative, quick-tempered,

passionate, and ever-ready something to touch off an insurrection

The area was incredibly fertile, growing every kind of tree, every area of land being farmed

They were the cultured part of Israel, which to Southern Israel made them heathens and liberals

The traffic of the ancient world passed through Galilee so it makes sense why Jesus would stay
 there for 18 months preaching and performing miracles, spreading His message

He grew up in the area, the town of Nazareth which was 14 miles southwest of the Sea of Galilee

Luke tells us ***“as was His custom, He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and He stood***

***up to read.”* 4:16b**

He had been sent to the closet sheep of Israel, so He went into the synagogue teaching them and

the people were excited, here comes the preacher we had heard about!

The synagogue was created during the 70 years that Israel was in captivity in Babylon

Unable to go to the temple in Jerusalem, they built meeting houses, and soon they were built

the same all the world over, with the entrance always facing Jerusalem

They were Jewish schools for children, worship centers, ministry centers, complete with a

balcony for women and children along with a closet or ark for the scrolls of scripture

A shofar would blow, like church bells today, signaling the start of the service

Each synagogue had a ruler and an executive officer who handled the details of the service

Psalms were sung, Scriptures read and then often, a visiting teacher would be asked to preach

Jesus was, so He ***‘stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to Him. He***

***unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written’* 4:17**

These scrolls were usually 11 inches high, 20-30 feet in length and Hebrew writing went right to

left, so Jesus unrolled the scroll with His left hand while rolling it up with His right,

translating the Hebrew into Aramaic for the average Jew could not speak Hebrew

The passage was familiar to the Jews and Jesus applied it to Himself: ***‘The Spirit of the Lord is***

***upon Me, because He has anointed Me’* 4:18**

The word **PP** ***‘anointed’*** is the root word for Christ, meaning the anointed of God, the Messiah

***“He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are***

***oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*  18-19a**

His mission was to **PP** ***‘proclaim good news’***, a word very often for *preaching*

His message was good news ***to the poor***, ***the captives***, ***the blind***, the ***year of God’s favor arrived***

Do you know that He in part, referring to the year of Jubilee, which God commanded Israel to

observe and celebrate every 50 years when debts were forgiven, land debts restored, and

indentured servants were set free?

God cares for the poor, the exposed, the suffering, and so should His people

You have heard of Juneteenth, a holiday that freedome finally came on this day in 1865 to slaves

in Galveston, Texas

Church, let us celebrate this, not as the world does, but by praising our God Who exercised His

justice, affirming every person is made in God’s image regardless of race or color

All through the bible, it shouts the good news that God cares and is doing something to redeem

this sin-broken world

On one level, Isaiah prophesied to that day when God would meet suffering with help and mercy

His heart has compassion for the poor, the downtrodden, the captives and blind

He will exercise His compassion through His people, through His church!

**PP *“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do***

***justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”* Micah 6:8**

And while the merciful heart of God puts compassion into action, His deepest mercy extends to a

much deeper target, which Isaiah’s prophecy addresses

But is relieving social misery and hardship the full or deepest mission of Jesus that Isaiah saw?

Is Jesus, as the social gospel claims, working through the church to reform our culture?

The Apostle Paul wrote, **PP *“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”* 1 Timothy 2:15**

The interpretive lens for all of what Christ spoke and did is His desire to save sinners

Jesus said so Himself, **PP *“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to***

***give His life as a ransom for many.”* Mark 10:45**

A ransom was the price a slave paid to purchase his freedom

Jesuss message of redemption then was good news to the spiritually poor, who knew they were

sinners not right with God

The greatest sermon ever preached began with, **PP** ***“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is***

 ***the kingdom of heaven.”*** **Matthew 5:3**

Good news for those who understood they were captive to the prisoner of sin

Good news for those stumbling around in spiritual darkness seeing no way to be saved

Good news for those being crushed in a world under dominion of the prince of the air, Satan

The time to be set free, the ***‘year of the Lord’s favor’*** is now, I am your Messiah come to save!

He is speaking of those who have hit the bottom, out of options with no other place to turn and

whose hearts are ready to believe in Him, the Messiah

But the congregation in that synagogue was blinded, even while ***‘The eyes of all…were fixed on***

***Him’*** and ***’all spoke well of Him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming***

***from His mouth.”*  4:22**

But by the end of the service ***‘all spoke well of Him’*** would turn to ***‘all in the synagogue were***

***filled with wrath.’*** and they would try to stone Him to death

What made them go from marveling to murder, from wonder to wrath?

The rest of the passage will help us discover the answer:

The entire sermon of Jesus in that synagogue is not recorded, but what is, is revealing

**PP 1-They wouldn’t believe because of His familiarity**

***“And they said, ‘Is not this Joseph’s son?’”*** **Luke 4:22**

This is amazing, I grew up with Jesus, He’s my cousin, my neighbor, we played ball together

*We know you, you are Joseph’s son, and by the way, weren’t there rumors that he got your mom*

*pregnant before they married?*

Later, in **John 8:41**, some who refused to believe in Him slandered Him, ***“We were not born of***

***sexual immorality...”***, *but you were, weren’t you Jesus?*

The truth is that Mary was pregnant because God divinely caused it to be, not Joseph

Yet for this congregation and for many, familiarity does actually breed contempt and Jesus

warned them, ***“no prophet is acceptable in his hometown”*** 4:**24**

**PP 2-They wouldn’t believe because of their wrong expectations of the Messiah**

It was Jewish custom to read no less than 3 verses in the synagogue, and then preach on it, but

 Jesus broke that custom reading only 2 verses of **Isaiah 61**, leaving out a critical part

He ended His reading with ***‘to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor’*** but Isaiah had continued

with, **PP** ***‘and the day of the vengeance of our God’* (Isaiah 61:2)**

The Jews believed, longed for the Messiah coming and ushering in God’s favor to them, while

pouring out God’s wrath on the Gentiles, especially their Roman captors

Jesus stopped before that part, indicating it was time for God’s grace and favor, not yet judgment

The Jewish people knew the rest of the verse, and they squirmed uncomfortably in their pews

Nothing faster endeared a jewish congregation to a preacher than God’s wrath on the Gentiles,

after all they were taught by their teachers God created Gentiles to fuel the fires of hell

**PP 3-They wouldn’t believe because of their lack of true faith**

***“And He said to them, ‘Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, “Physician, heal***

***yourself.” What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as***

***well.’”* Luke 4:23**

The skeptic philosopher Bertrand Russell, once boasted what he’d say to God if he ended up

meeting Him at the final judgment: *‘Not enough evidence Lord. Not enough evidence!’*

This congregation was muttering, *It’s easy to claim you are the Messiah, prove it with miracles!*

Paul would later say, **PP *“Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom”* 1 Corinthians 1:22**

This faith-less demand would be expressed again years later during His crucifixion

**PP *“And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at Him, saying, ‘He saved***

***others; let Him save himself, if He is the Christ of God, His Chosen One!’”* Lk 23:35**

They weren’t demanding miracles to overcome unbelief, it was because they wouldn’t believe

The atmosphere in that building was quickly heating up, but then Jesus gave two illustrations that

caused them to hit the boiling point

***“But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land,***

***and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.”*** **Luke 4:25-27**

**PP 4-They wouldn’t believe because of their self-righteousness**

His audience was religious, attending regularly, saying their prayers, observing the law

Friends, our moral goodness often blinds us to our spiritual poverty

So Jesus gave two Old Testament examples of Gentiles who had faith and God saved them

First, a poor Gentile widow with a young son who were both about to die from starvation

God sent Elijah to her and the prophet brazenly asked her to share her last meal before they died

with him, and amazingly she did

God miraculously gave her life through a replenishing supply of oil and flour

Second, a Gentile Syrian leper, an enemy of God’s people who went to Elisha for healing

The leper, Naaman, at first refused to obey Elisha’s direction, but encouraged by his servants he

finally did, and God supernaturally healed him

Both the leper and widow were Gentiles and in both cases, they believed without seeing

But you, Jesus said to that congregation, do not realize you are poor, you do not understand you

are captive to sin, you do not see you are spiritually, and under the grip of the devil

You will not believe and there is more hope for the Gentiles than you!

They understood the message and exploded in anger, leading Him to the limestone cliffs

of Nazareth to execute him by stoning

He slipped from their midst and the bible contains no record of Him visiting there again

Are you poor in spirit, having abandoned all hope in your own righteousness before God?

Have you seen that you are captive to the power of sin, and you cannot find a way to freedom?

Have you stumbled through life in spiritual darkness, not knowing where to turn for eternal life?

Have you realized that you are caught in the grip of the devil, who does not want to let you go?

Jesus, the anointed One of God has proclaimed to you good news, He can and will pay your debt,

He will provide your ransom, He is the light from God so you can see, He will deliver

you from the evil one

You must believe, you must trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior!

When you hear the good news of the gospel, you will either fall at His feet and believe, or you

will, in some form, drive Him out of your life and silence His convicting voice!

My plea is that you will believe on Jesus the anointed One, come to save your soul for eternity

Let’s pray