

One Body Initiative: Week Three – Jesus’ Mission

September 21, 2020

Scripture: [Luke 4:16-21](#)

He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.”*

Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him.

He said to them, “Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Commentary:

Isaiah 61:1-11. *Messiah’s offices: Restoration of Israel.*

Messiah announces His twofold commission to bring gospel mercy at His first coming, and judgments on unbelievers and comfort to Zion at His second coming (Isaiah 61:1-9); the language can be applied to Isaiah, comforting by his prophecies the exiles in Babylon, only in a subordinate sense.

is upon me; because ... hath anointed me — quoted by Jesus as His credentials in preaching (Luke 4:18-21). The Spirit is upon Me in preaching, because Jehovah *hath* anointed Me from the womb (Luke 1:35), and at baptism, with the Spirit “without measure,” and permanently “abiding” on Me (Isaiah 11:2; John 1:32; John 3:34; Psalm 45:7; with which compare 1 Kings 1:39, 1 Kings 1:40; 1 Kings 19:16; Exodus 29:7). “Anointed” as *Messiah*, Prophet, Priest, and King.

good tidings — as the word “gospel” means.

the meek — rather, “the poor,” as Luke 4:18 has it; that is, those afflicted with calamity, poor in circumstances and in spirit (Matthew 11:5).

proclaim liberty — (John 8:31-36). Language drawn from the deliverance of the Babylonian captives, to describe the deliverance from sin and death (Hebrews 2:15); also from the “liberty proclaimed” to all bond-servants in the year of jubilee (Isaiah 61:2; Leviticus 25:10; Jeremiah 34:8, Jeremiah 34:9).

opening of the prison — The *Hebrew* rather is, “the *most complete* opening,” namely, of the *eyes* to them that are bound, that is, deliverance from *prison*, for captives are as it were *blind* in the darkness of prison (Isaiah 14:17; Isaiah 35:5; Isaiah 42:7) [Ewald]. So Luke 4:18 and the *Septuagint* interpret it; Luke 4:18, under inspiration, adds to this, for the fuller explanation of the *single* clause in the *Hebrew*, “to set at liberty them that are bruised”; thus expressing the *double* “opening” implied; namely, that of the eyes (John 9:39), and that of the prison (Romans 6:18; Romans 7:24, Romans 7:25; Hebrews 2:15). His miracles were *acted parables*.

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Bibliography

Jamieson, Robert, D.D.; Fausset, A. R.; Brown, David. "Commentary on Isaiah 61:1". "Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible". <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/jfb/isaiah-61.html>. 1871-8.

Questions for Reflection:

- When have you felt God had only granted you a conditional freedom....where you were brought out of exile but still found your life was a struggle or a mess? What would you need from God for his ‘proclamation of liberty’ to ring true for you?
- Who are the outcasts, “sinners,” or others who are on the margins in our society? At your school or job? In your circle of friends or family? What might it look like to join them on the margins?
- If you were to write your version of Christ’s Inaugural Address in Luke 4:16-21, what would it say? How would you define “glad tidings,” “liberty,” “recovery of sight,” or freedom from oppression?
- In John 14:12, Jesus is quoted: “He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” What did Jesus mean that you will do greater works than he? How do you imagine doing that? What would it look like in the context of Jesus’ mission and (y)ours?
- “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.” How has God’s spirit already been working on and in you?
- Where have you held back from embracing Christ’s mission as God’s Anointed One as your own mission? What support would you need to more fully yield to the Holy Spirit’s guidance?