

16So 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 to read. 17And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: 18“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed (downtrodden); 19To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” Luke 4:16-19

Jesus came out of the wilderness after being tempted for forty days. He returned home to Nazareth, *where He had been brought up*. Jesus was a devout Jew and as such, *He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day*.

When He was baptized He told John the Baptist, *Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness*. Jesus, who was living a sinless life, did not need to repent. He submitted to baptism, identifying with the human need, *fulfilling all righteousness*. Jesus is God's great, sinless High Priest. It says in the book of Hebrews, *we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Heb 4:15* Jesus was tempted but did not sin. We considered last week Him being in the wilderness forty days and being tempted by the devil, *yet without sin*.

Back in Nazareth he went to the local synagogue, *as His was custom*. Jesus was God yet His fleshly behavior lined up with that of a normal devout Jewish young man of His day. He went to church, *as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day*. Jesus was consumed by His relationship with God the Father and keeping the Law. Later He went to Jerusalem on the Passover, made a whip and drove out the people doing business there.

Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!” 17Then His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up. John 2:16,17

This day He *stood up to read*. As part of the synagogue service agenda, they would read from the Law (5 books of Moses) and they would read from the Prophets. Jesus may have read often in this His home synagogue. This day He not only read but told those present, *Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing*. They marveled at Him. This was just the beginning of Jesus public ministry. Up to this point He was just a good Jewish boy growing up in the community and attending their synagogue. They said, *“Is this not Joseph's son?”*

20Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” 22So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, “Is this not Joseph's son?” Luke 4:20-22

Jesus claims He was fulfilling this prophecy of Isaiah, *Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing*. Let's consider what He read.

18“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed (downtrodden); 19To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” Luke 4:18-19 (Is 61:1,2)

Isaiah stated, *The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me*. This was prophetic of the coming Mes-

siah. Jesus declares, *Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing*. We read in Luke 4:1, *Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit*. This was before He went into the wilderness. The Holy Spirit descended on Him in the form of a dove. The John the Baptist declared of Jesus, *He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire*. Luke 3:16 and *For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure*. John 3:34 So Jesus certainly fits the criteria of having *the Spirit upon Him*.

Then Isaiah prophesied of this one to come being *anointed to preach the gospel to the poor (one who crouches and cowers, hence beggarly)*. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus began His teaching by stating, *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*. 5:3 Jesus hadn't come to establish an earthly kingdom. The Messiah brought the gospel to the humble. the Good News, *eu and aggelos; to announce good news ("evangelize")* *The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.*" Matt 4:16. Those who are spiritually open, aware they were sinners. The humble before the Lord will be exalted, *a light has dawned*. These are the ones the Messiah came to minister eternal life.

The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, The haughtiness of men shall be bowed down. Is 2:11 The religious leaders of Jesus time rejected Him. The religious people in His local synagogue, after this, were enraged and drove Him out of the town. God resists the proud.

Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 6*Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.* 1 Peter 5:5-7

The Messiah was sent by God to release those held captive, in bondage by sin. Jesus came to bring God's grace, His unmerited favor. Christ's sacrifice on the cross set men free from sin's bondage. Look at the mission of the Messiah, *He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed (downtrodden)* How is man downrodden, oppressed? Man without Christ was in bondage to sin.

How was this His life an atonement for sin? In the OT we see the Jews having the Law, God's requirements for godly living, not having the power to live according to the Law, they were in bondage. Paul wrote, *What the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh.* Rom 8:3 A perfect picture of this is when the Jewish nation was in Egypt. Egypt was a type of sin, the bondage. Moses was sent as a deliverer, *to set at liberty those who were oppressed*. Moses didn't deliver the Jewish nation, God did it when He passed over their sin and delivered them through the Red Sea by His grace.

At the Passover, in Jesus day, God's Son gave His life to *set at liberty those who are oppressed*. Paul wrote to the Romans, *while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.* Rom 5:6 Christ sets free those who believe in Him, from bondage to sin (*liberty to the captives*). He did this by becoming sin for man. *God made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.* 2 Cor 5:21 Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy by set the captives of sin (slave in bondage) free. As believers we can declare that we are free, *If the Son sets you free, you are free indeed (truly free).* John 8:36

Today the church gathers to celebrate the Resurrection Day. While resurrection is vital to the story of redemption, Jesus willingness to be the suffering servant, *to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives*, was accomplished on the cross. He came for

the poor in spirit but He was will to humble Himself, He *made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.*

*On Calvary Mountain, Where they made him suffer so,
All my sin was paid for, A long, long time ago.*

Paul wrote that as Christians we need to have the attitude of Christ.

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; Phil 2:5-10

As we look at the resurrection we acknowledge *at the right time Christ died for us.* Paul wrote, *When we were still without strength (powerless, utterly helpless), in due time Christ died for the ungodly. Rom 5:6* We can say together with all the saints, our Savior lives. He died for sin but he has risen to give us eternal life. *Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us. Rom 8:34*

*Up from the grave He arose, With a mighty triumph o'er His foes
He arose a Victor from the dark domain, And He lives forever with His saints to reign
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

This was Jesus mission to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed (downtrodden); 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." Luke 4:18,19

The acceptable year of the Lord. This denotes that most blessed time when salvation and the free favors of God profusely abound. (Exodus 28:34; Isaiah 56:7 Thayer

7 Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations." The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, "Yet I will gather to him others besides those who are gathered to him." Is 56:7

May this day be a *blessed time when salvation and the free favors of God profusely abound* in each of our lives

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the [a]author and [b]finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Heb 12:1, 2

Let us declare the Lord's favor, He is risen, Christ is risen indeed.