

## The Lord of Liberty

Luke 4: 16-22

Today is a special day for each of us. We are celebrating Independence Day here in America. It is a holiday where we recognize and celebrate the freedom and liberty that we enjoy in this great nation.

As we reflect on the freedoms we enjoy, I am also aware that there are those living in America who remain in bondage. Physically and emotionally they may be free, but spiritually they remain captive to sin.

Our text reveals that Jesus has returned unto His childhood of Nazareth just after being tempted of Satan and immediately enters the synagogue to teach the Word of God. He reads from [Is.61:1-2](#) which speaks of the Messiah and His work of redemption. Jesus revealed to the Jews that He was the Messiah and that this prophecy had been fulfilled.

Only you know where you stand in your relationship with Christ. You have either been set free in Him or you remain in bondage to sin and death. If you have never trusted Christ in salvation there is yet hope for you. I want to look at this passage and discover the wonderful truths concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. I want to preach on: [The Lord of Liberty](#).

**I. The Manifestation of Christ** (18a) – **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 is very early in Jesus' ministry. He was known of many in Nazareth, but not as the Messiah. Jesus came to reveal God to mankind. He came as God robed in flesh as a man and here Jesus declares that He is the Christ. We need to consider a couple of things about His manifestation. Notice:

**A. His Fellowship** – Jesus proclaims, **"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me."** Jesus publicly identifies Himself with God the Father and God the Spirit. He speaks of the Trinity, the Godhead. Jesus had not come to do the works of God alone. He enjoyed the presence and power of the Spirit upon Him.

- Jesus laid aside the glory that He knew in heaven to take on the form of a man. He never laid aside or lost His deity, but it was veiled in a body of flesh. Jesus is, was, and always will be God, but He did not live life here upon the earth as God, but as a Spirit-filled man. He lived the life we never could, in that it was sinless and perfect, and yet Christ chose to limit His power as He dwelt here in human form.

**B. His Favor** – The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. Jesus enjoyed a special anointing from God. He was consecrated as the Messiah and empowered to fulfill the plan of God. Jesus never walked alone. He never promoted His own agenda or sought to fulfill His own desires. He stated many times that He came to fulfill the will of the Father. Even facing death in Gethsemane, Jesus was resigned to the will of God. He did this through the anointing.

- We in no way could possess the same anointing that Jesus enjoyed because He was sent to perform a work that man could not do. However, as believers and followers of Christ, we need the anointing of the Spirit upon our lives as well. We need to be filled with the Spirit and in close fellowship with the Lord. This is a special benefit of belonging to the Lord.

## **I. The Manifestation of Christ (18a)**

**II. The Mission of Christ (18b)** – 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. In the later part of this verse we find the mission of Christ. He speaks of five objectives concerning His ministry.

**A. To Preach the Gospel to the Poor** – The word preach means “to herald.” The word gospel literally means “good news.” So Jesus came to spread the good news of the glorious gospel to the poor. That is an interesting aspect. Jesus came to those who were needy, physically, financially, emotionally, and spiritually.

- I rejoice for the day that I heard the good news. Spiritually I was bankrupt and destitute. I had nothing to offer, but He came to me! I stood in need and Jesus met that need.

**B. To Heal the Brokenhearted** – Brokenhearted literally has the idea of “breaking in pieces; to crush; and to trample under foot.” Jesus came to bring healing to those who were brokenhearted; to comfort those who suffered extreme grief and sorrow. This must’ve been especially comforting to the Jews because of their suffering under the heavy hand of Rome while the Babylonian captivity was still being remembered.

- Consider all that are brokenhearted among us today. Many feel as if their lives have been shattered in pieces. They feel as if they have been crushed and trodden upon by the cares of this life.

- Many today are crushed by their sin. Their lives are trodden under foot of Satan and they are without hope. Jesus came to provide hope to the brokenhearted.

**C. To Preach Deliverance to the Captives** – This has the idea of those who are held by the point of a spear. Their lives are dominated and controlled by the enemy. There is no peace, no joy, and no comfort. Their lives are lived captive to sin and the evil desires of Satan.

- Each of us can relate to this horrendous captivity. We were all born in sin and held captive by its ruthless grip. Some have been set free while others remain in their bondage.
- I remember a time in my life when I stood captive to sin and the influence of Satan. I longed for the day that I would be set free. Thank God that the Holy Ghost came by and spoke to me, setting me free from bondage! **Lu.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.**

**D. To Recover the Sight of the Blind** – For hundreds of years the Jews had sought the Messiah. They had searched and longed for the day that He would come. Now Jesus was here; He was the Christ, the One they longed to see. Sadly, many of them were blinded by the rituals and demands of the law. Jesus was rejected because most couldn't see Him as the Son of God. He came to open the blinded eyes. Jesus came to reveal God to man and Himself as the only begotten of the Father.

- Countless souls remain blinded spiritually. Their eyes have never been opened to the light of Jesus Christ. The adversary works continually to keep them blinded to the Lord. **2 Cor.4:4 – In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.**
- I too was blinded in sin. I saw no need for the Lord or His salvation. I hadn't realized that I stood condemned and in need of a Savior. I praise the Lord for the glorious day that the search-light of heaven was directed toward my soul and my eyes were opened to the truth! I once was blind, but praise His wonderful name, now I see!

**E. To Set at Liberty them that are Bruised** – This speaks of those who are *broken, shattered, and smitten through*. Jesus came as one who had unmatched compassion. He was moved by the condition and the needs of humanity. He came to comfort and heal those who are broken.

- The effects and consequences of sin bear devastating results. Many lives are broken and shattered due to the choices they have made. Many feel as if there is no hope of finding forgiveness. Many feel as if their lives will never be made whole, with the pieces being put back together again. Jesus is the source of our wholeness. He alone has the power and ability to liberate those who are desperate and broken. He can set you free from the guilt and shame of your sin.

## **I. The Manifestation of Christ** (18a)

## **II. The Mission of Christ** (18b)

**III. The Message of Christ** (19) – The message and purpose of Jesus' ministry was clear and precise: **To preach the acceptable year of the Lord**. The Jews had long awaited the coming Messiah and He was now in their midst. The day of the law would soon pass as Jesus offered Himself a sacrifice for the sins of humanity, ushering in the day of grace and bringing opportunity for mankind to receive salvation.

- It has been some 2,000 years and the message remains the same. Now is the time, today is the day for salvation. [2 Cor.6:2 – \(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.\)](#) The Lord provided the means of salvation for all who will come to Him.
- Jesus quoted [Is.61:1-2](#), but He didn't quote the entire portion of [V.2](#). [To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn](#). This is yet to be fulfilled after the age of grace. Mercy and grace are offered now, but one day God's mercy will be withdrawn and judgment will come. If you aren't saved, I urge you to come while there is still opportunity.

**IV. The Majesty of Christ** (20-22) – The Jews may not have received Christ, but there was clearly something special about this Man.

**A. His Astonishment** (20b, 22a) – [And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth](#). The people's eyes were fixed on the Lord, literally in a gaze, and they marveled at the words He spoke. They had never heard such teaching before. This Man spoke with wisdom and grace that was unmatched by all of the scholars and priests of that day.

- The same is true in our day. The message and words of Christ create astonishment among men. The gospel brings life and liberty to all who receive it. I remember how I felt when I grasped the love that Christ had for me and the glorious gift of salvation. This world has much to offer, but nothing compares to that which Jesus gives.

**B. His Apprehension** (22b) – [And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?](#) The words and witness of Jesus arrested their thoughts and gripped their hearts. No doubt many realized that this was the Christ, the promised One of God. Others, however, sought to explain Him away. They refused to accept the fact that Jesus was the Christ. They reasoned within themselves that He

was just the son of a carpenter; He was just one whom they had known and watched grow up among them. Whatever the case, Jesus presented a message that gripped them and they were forced to make a decision.

- The same is true in our day as well. The message of the gospel continues to grip the hearts of men. Some submit to the call and surrender their hearts to Christ, while others seek a way to deny or refuse the offer. Either way, when Jesus is presented, mankind has to make a choice. The Holy Spirit works within the soul of humanity, revealing the truth of Christ.

Where do you stand today? You have heard the gospel message. Jesus died for each of us. He has provided the way of salvation. Have you accepted Christ as your Savior? If not, are you willing to surrender to His call or are you determined to reject the Lord and His offer.

This isn't something that you can be neutral or indifferent about. There must be a decision made concerning Christ. You might say that I don't want to make that choice right now, but in reality you have chosen to reject Him because you chose not to receive Him. This is the greatest decision you will ever make. You can have complete liberty in Christ if you will only come to Him.