

Jesus' Mission

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October 8th 2006

Introduction

What in your life are you most passionate about?

What in your life have you had a sense of mission for?

Luke 4:16-22

Text

Visiting teachers would often officiate part of the synagogue service. Scripture was read standing, out of respect for the word of God, and then the one officiating would sit to deliver a message. When Jesus sat, they would expect Him to deliver a lesson. Jesus read from Isaiah 61 and then began to teach. Isaiah 61 begins by mentioning anointing. In fact the word for anointing Isaiah uses is "MESHA" where we get the word Messiah and Christ.

As mentioned last week, anointing was done to select someone for a special purpose. Saul, David, and Solomon were all anointed for the purpose of being king (1 Sam 10:1, 16:12, and 1 Kings 1:34). Priests also received an anointing to show their special selection for their purpose.

What purpose was Jesus anointed and chosen by God to fulfill?

- To be the savior of the world and to set people free from their sins.

Mission

What five things does Jesus read from Isaiah that he identifies as his mission?

1. Proclaim good news to the poor
2. Proclaim freedom for the prisoners
3. Recover sight for the blind
4. Set the oppressed free
5. Proclaim the year of the Lord's favor

How is Jesus the fulfillment of the scripture he read from Isaiah?

- He accomplished what Isaiah wrote about.
- He had the power to make good on these promises.

How does our mission reflect Jesus' mission mentioned in this passage?

- When we do as he did — help the poor, bring people closer to God, and sacrifice for others.
- We show others His love, compassion, and grace.
- We too look out for the poor and downtrodden
- We proclaim freedom for those who are enslaved to sin
- We help the spiritually blind to see again

Proclamation

- We are to help take burdens off of the oppressed
- We are to proclaim the Gospel of God's favor to a lost and dying world.

Part of Jesus' mission was proclamation.

What types of people does Jesus' proclamation go out to?

- God chooses the least of these to receive His message of good news – the poor and the prisoners.

If you were a prisoner, what reaction would you have when you heard the words "You are free!"?

- Excitement, joy, relief, etc.

How is our message about Jesus a message of freedom to those who are lost?

- It gives them hope that they can be released from the shackles of sin and death through the blood of Christ.

How would the poor Jesus mentions react be to the words, "your debts have been cancelled."?

How has Christ cancelled the spiritual debt that we owed?

- Sin comes at a cost that is too high for us to pay ourselves.
- Jesus paid the price for our sins.

Action

Jesus' mission was more than proclamation. It was also about action. He was not a passive messiah. He was able to accomplish God's purposes on earth, purposes we could never accomplish on our own. He was willing to step down on our level and reach out to heal our diseases. He was even willing to die. We also have a purpose from God and this purpose requires action.

How did the ministry of Jesus give sight to the spiritually blind?

- People living in darkness came to a knowledge of the truth.

Application

How can we carry out the same mission of bringing sight to the spiritually blind?

- By helping people see Jesus through scripture, our example and our speech.
- By being a light in a dark world and reflecting the glory of Christ.

What actions can we do that will reflect the ministry and mission of Christ?

What hope can we hold out to others through the resurrection of Christ?

- Freedom!
- There is life after death for those who are in him.
- God is willing to save them from their sin if they would put their trust in God.

How could you use proclamation and action in your neighborhood to reflect the ministry and purpose of Jesus?

- Invite others in, be people of service, look out for the weak and oppressed, etc.
- Show people grace
- Be self-sacrificial

What kind thing can we do for our neighbors that they would never expect from us in order to show them Jesus?

Put it into Practice

This week, do something for others that would reflect the ministry of Jesus. You could do something found in our passage for the day: proclaiming to someone good news about God, helping someone see better spiritually, or taking the burden off of someone who is oppressed.