

SUNDAY 19.05.2024
MISSIONS MONTH

THEME: RESTORING
LUKE 4: 1-2, 14-21 NIV



Jesus, full of the **Holy Spirit**, left the Jordan and was led by **the Spirit** into the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

15 He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me to proclaim
good news to the poor. He has sent me to
proclaim freedom for the prisoners and
recovery of sight for the blind, to set the
oppressed free, 19 to proclaim the year of
the Lord’s favor.”

20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Introduction

- ▶ Jesus quoted this prophecy in the book of Isaiah 61; he selected Isaiah 61 to launch His mission and to announce that he was the Messiah. This prophecy describes the deliverance of Israel from exile in Babylon.

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to proclaim;

▶ a) Good news to the poor. - The Jews knew that whoever was coming, was bringing good news to the poor whose lives had been filled with bad news.

▶ **b) He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners - Those long held captives in dungeons and prisons of all kinds get promised their freedom.**

▶ **c) Recovery of sight for the blind.**

- ▶ **d) To set the oppressed free.**
- ▶ **e) To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”**

Jesus fulfilled his mission, but how did he do it? In his book *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, Robert E Coleman lists several things Jesus did to accomplish His mission, I will only pick two of them.

1. Delegation – “Jesus was always building his ministry for the time when His disciples would have to take over his work and go out into the world with the redeeming gospel”.

(Coleman).

a) Luke demonstrates how Jesus did this; “When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, 2 and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick”. (Luke 9:1-2).

b) I believe Jesus has delegated the same mission to us to reach to the broken world.

2. Impartation –“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them'. (Acts 2:1-4).

a) God has given us something that the enemy cannot steal from us. It is only the Spirit of God who enables one to carry the redemptive mission of evangelism.

b) As we celebrate Pentecost today let us remember the **RESTORING** work that has been delegated to us.

In our society today we have Lonely people, grieving families, broken relationships, mental illnesses, etc.