

I. Release From Bondage (Isaiah 61:1-3)

A. Luke 4:16 *And 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 for to read. 17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. 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 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, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*

1. There was nothing especially unusual about Jesus reading this passage in the synagogue of Nazareth — it had doubtless been read many times before.
2. Devout followers of Judaism knew this to be a prophecy relating to the coming Messiah.

B. Luke 4:20 *And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 And he began to say unto them, **This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.***

- Jesus lists the issues He will address in His administration:

1. to preach the **gospel** to the **poor** — **Poverty**
2. to **heal** the **brokenhearted** — **Sorrow**
3. to preach **deliverance** to the **captives** — **Bondage**
4. **recovering** of sight to the **blind** — **Suffering**
5. to set at **liberty** them that are **bruised** — **Oppression**

C. The people of Nazareth **knew** Jesus. — Luke 4:22 *And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son? 23 And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country. 24 And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.*

- "Familiarity breeds contempt."

D. Luke 4:28 *And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, 29 And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong. 30 But he passing through the midst of them went his way,*

- Mark 6:5 *And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.*

II. The Lord Our Righteousness (Jeremiah 23:4-6)

A. יהוה צדקנו - Jehovah Tsidkenu

- tsedek

1. stiff, straight (ruler or straight-edge)

2. justly weighed

B. Matthew 5:48 *Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*

1. The command is given again in 1 Peter 1:16 *Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

2. Matthew 5:20 *For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

C. We cannot be righteous on our own.

1. Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

2. Proverbs 20:9 *Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?*

3. Isaiah 64:6 *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our **righteousnesses** are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

D. Our righteousness does not suffice, but **Christ is Our Righteousness.**

1. 1 Corinthians 1:30 *But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:*

2. 2 Corinthians 5:21 *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

3. How does this help me today?

a) I've been justified.

- Philippians 3:9 *And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:*

b) I am enabled to live righteously.

(1) Ephesians 4:22 *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

(2) Romans 6:18 *Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*