

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

JESUS' MINISTRY

Luke 4:18-19 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Jesus was handed an Isaiah scroll and read to those in attendance at the synagogue in His home town of Nazareth from the sixty-first chapter. These words of Isaiah sixty-one are found here in Luke 4:18-19. After reading these words to the people Jesus said, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

At Jesus' baptism, God spoke, declaring Jesus was His Son. At that moment God launched Jesus' Messianic ministry. At the synagogue in Nazareth Jesus self-identified Himself as the Messiah, promised through the Old Testament years through the pen of the prophets. His mission, His ministry God sent Him to do was to mend broken hearts like one who put back together broken pieces of pottery. God sent Him to rescue those who had been captured by the evil forces of this world. He was to set free those who were in bondage to Satan.

In chapter 42:3, Isaiah wrote regarding the Messiah, "a bruised reed He will not break, and a faintly burning wick He will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice." Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would "give power to the faint, and to him who has no might He increases strength." And, Isaiah wrote that those who waited for and trusted in the promised Messiah "shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31) This is the Scripture which Jesus said was being fulfilled by His coming to the earth.

How is this all to happen? Jesus, again quoting from Isaiah 61 answered those afflicted with doubts and reservations, "the Spirit of the Lord is upon Me." And, He pointed out that His heavenly Father had "anointed" Him, sent Him to do this Messianic work. And, this very day, December 9, 2022, this Scripture is still being fulfilled. Whoever believes in Him (Jesus) will be saved. (John 3:16)

Prayer: Jesus, bless the ministry of the Gospel that as I hear it, I am lifted up, am released from my bondage to sin and receive Your favor. In Your holy name. Amen.

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne And ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the pri9s'ners to release, Ion Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring With Thy beloved name.
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