

See Your Spirit-led, Mission-minded Messiah

Picture scene: You are 1st cent Jewish believer. Sat, Sabbath, synagogue. Someone you recognize, rabbi.

Heard preaching in area; people saying good things. Jesus, standing to read. Everyone's excited; first time preaching at home cong. Silent; hear him unrolling scroll; clears throat; pauses. With a certain oratorical authority, reads familiar passage from Is 61. **Vs. 20**. Imagine there, surrounded by people eager to see Jesus, hear sermon. In a sense, you are there right now, because today Jesus preaches to us right here, and today we see Jesus as our Spirit-led, mission-minded Messiah (SLMMM).

Vs. 14a. HS played important role in Jesus' life. Luke emph. Conceived (ch 1). Baptized (3). Tempted (4). Right after: **vs. 14a**. Later in life, HS strengthened: during rejection, death. **"Through the Spirit of holiness [Jesus] was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead" (Rom 1:4)** – played role in res. Throughout entire life, Jesus was led by Spirit to follow Father's will, be perfect Savior. In this lesson: **vs. 15**. Teacher, rabbi – explained. **Vs. 16**. Made custom, synagogue on Sabbath; obey 3rd Com and remember Sabbath – went to church. Spirit led him to follow God's will.

Makes me think about Spirit's role in our life. As Christians, baptized into Christ, same HS coursing through, heart of faith beating, we're led by Spirit, too: to see Christ as Savior who died, rose to forgive our sins. It's HS who moves, motivates, empowers, leads us to follow God's will. So, we are Spirit-led. Why Gal calls good works fruit of Spirit (ch 5). Spirit-led to follow God's will. Shame we often don't. Honest look at your life, at fruits you produce, have to admit: many aren't fruit of Spirit. Fruits, but of different spirit, of sinfulness and Satan that clings to all of us in sinful nature. Take what we talked about already. Spirit led Jesus to teach God's Word and make custom to worship. Spirit would lead us to study teachings of Jesus, make custom to worship. Yet here still struggle with many who do not make worship weekly custom; (2-3x year, maybe once every 2 months, or less) not custom. Many more don't participate in Bible study (Sunday, midweek); numbers pretty low, after weekly announcements, page in bulletin. "Discipleship" instead of "Bible study." Disciple: follow teachings of Jesus. Increase number of people in worship and "discipleship." Spirit led Jesus to make his custom; us, as well.

So Jesus, many ways, is Spirit-led. This day, in Naz, home town, opens scroll to Is 61 (1st lesson), reads, **Vs. 18...anointed me.**" Christ/Messiah = anointed. Jesus is Anointed One. At bap, Jesus was anointed as Christ/Messiah, with mission to save world. So not only Spirit-led, but also mission-minded. Mission-minded Messiah. Why: **vs. 18b-19**. Mission statement of mission-minded Messiah. Came on mission to proclaim (used 3x); speak verbal message, proclamation, announcement; for us to hear with ears, believe with hearts. When Jesus speaks, we need to listen; proclaims good news, aka gospel. We need gospel! **"Poor, prisoners, blind, oppressed."** Think: poor, blind (Jesus' day); prisoners, oppressed (Isaiah's). But, poor in spirit... That's us; talking about us! By nature, without Jesus, we are poor... hopeless, helpless, life without meaning, road to hell, can't stop. When realize how poor we are, what good news, what a gospel message to hear mission-minded Messiah say **vs. 21b**. "Today, let it be known, I am Messiah, your Savior, come on mission to save you, to (**vs. 18-19**)." To people of Naz, and us. Jesus came on mission to save us; he's mission-minded Messiah. On his mind, in his heart to die for us, rise, proclaim gospel of salvation to us, so that gospel might be in our minds, hearts forever.

Must've been good sermon. **Vs. 22a**. Might think: good, they believed. Next Sunday: so angry, tried to throw from cliff, kill. Even though in synagogue eyes fixed on him, didn't see SLMMM. Saw Joseph's kid,

carpenter. I pray that today, as you see Jesus in hometown, preaching in synagogue, quoting Is, fulfilling Is, you would see Jesus as SLMMM he is, who was anointed at baptism and led by Spirit to accomplish mission to save you and me.

Luke 4:14-22a (NIV 2011)

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, ¹⁹to 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.”

²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips.