

Sermon Notes, January 24, 2010
Lifestyles of the Poor and Forgotten
 Luke 4:14-30

America's Fascination: *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous.* _____

Jesus's Fascination: "Lifestyles of the Poor and Forgotten."

(Luke 4:18-19 NIV) *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, {19} to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

Jesus Proclaimed . . .	Physical Dimension	Spiritual Dimension
Good News to the Poor.	People with little _____ or skills	People who know they are not acceptable to God
Freedom for the _____.	People in exile or wrongly imprisoned	People in bondage to _____ (the world and the flesh)
Recovery of Sight for the Blind.	People with limited or no _____	People with no encounter with God/salvation
Release for the _____.	People crushed by social injustice, disease, disaster, debt	People in bondage to the power of _____

The Sermon = _____

(Luke 4:21 NIV) *and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."*

Jesus Proclaimed _____!

(Lev 25:10 NIV) *Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each one of you is to return to his family property and each to his own clan.*

The Initial Response = _____

(Luke 4:22 NIV) *All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.*

The Response After His Explanation = _____!

JESUS EXPLAINS THREE TRUTHS ABOUT THE POOR AND FORGOTTEN

1. The Gospel is Only for the _____.

(Luke 4:25-27 NIV) *I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. {26} Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. {27} And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian."*

2. The Gospel is Especially for the _____.

(Isa 61:1-2 NIV) *The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, {2} to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God . . .*

3. The Gospel is Shared Most Effectively By Those Willing to be _____.

(Phil 2:7 NIV) *he made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

(Acts 2:44-45 NIV) *All the believers were together and had everything in common. {45} Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.*

Sermon-based Small Group Discussion Guide

Week of January 24, 2010

(Luke 4:14-30; Psalm 19, Nehemiah 8:1-10; I Cor. 12:12-31a)

Icebreaker: Tell your group about your hometown (neighborhood). What was it like and what symbols or signs indicated that you were “in” or you “have made it?”

1. Compare Luke 3:22, 4:1, 4:14 and 4:18. What is the common element in each verse? What does that tell us about the ministry of Jesus? What does that tell us about Christian ministry in general?
2. Jesus participated in the life of local synagogues as he traveled. He was God. He was sinless. Those people had little to offer him. He could have slept in. So why do you think he chose to go to synagogue?
3. Give some reasons why people should choose to go to church today?
4. Based on 4:1, how would you describe in your own words the preaching/teaching reputation Jesus developed throughout the region? How would you describe the reception Jesus got in his home town? (See verses 22, 28-30.) How do you explain the similarities and differences?
5. Jesus stood and read the biblical text for the day, Isaiah 61:1-2. What do you think he meant when he said that today this is fulfilled in your hearing (vs. 21)? (Check one of the answers below).
 - a. _____ The year of Jubilee has come (Leviticus 25:10)
 - b. _____ The Messiah has come
 - c. _____ Both
6. Do you think the congregation understood what Jesus was saying? Why?
7. Pastor Mark made a physical and spiritual application to each of the four ministries of Jesus in verses 18-19. What is the distinction between the following?
 - a. Physically poor / Spiritually poor
 - b. Physical prisoners / Spiritual prisoners
 - c. Physical blindness / Spiritual blindness
 - d. Physical oppression / Spiritual oppression
8. How do you sense that these ministries are happening through the power of Christ in our world?
9. How is God blessing others through you when you invest ministry in any of these areas? Do you have a preference of one ministry over another?
10. Pastor Mark explained why Jesus’ allusion to the widow of Zarephath and Naaman the Syrian was so offensive to the people of Nazareth. What did he say, and what do you think about it?
11. When Jesus read Isaiah 61:1-2, he stopped mid sentence and didn’t say, “and the day of vengeance of our God.” He mentioned blessing and not judgment. Was he being a wimp, or may there have been some other reason he stopped reading where he did?
12. Jesus was rejected big time by his hometown, but it didn’t stop him from speaking up. How much influence does fear of rejection play in your life? How can your small group help you overcome that fear?
13. How willing are you to become poor in order to spread the gospel (see the last point of the sermon).

Prayer

Pray for Spirit powered ministry in Haiti, St. Louis, West County, and your neighborhood.

Pray for one another.