

The Great Physician

Luke 4:14-44

- **Chapter 4** is all about facing your problems from a Biblical perspective, whether that's meeting the Devil head on while being in a barren place like we just saw at the beginning of the chapter or being questioned about who you are and what you stand for by those you're trying to help each of the problems and answers Jesus gives all came from the same source The Word of God.

V14-44

- **V14-16** the Devil leaves after seeing his tactics didn't work, which is why we were told in **1Pet 5:6-9** to resist the Devil and all his enticements and eventually he'll leave because he's not going to put his limited resources into an ineffectual battle, the only way he stays is if his tactics are working. Jesus returns from His time of testing "**stronger than ever**" as He's walking in the power of the Spirit after experiencing victory over temptation in the desert.
- This is one of the wonders of God's Grace, how through the grace of God, he who resists and overcomes temptation is always bettered by it, as the very things that are designed for our utter ruin the Lord uses them as instruments of our greater good. This aligns with what Joseph said in **Gen 50:20** - "**what you meant for evil God will turn it around for my good**". As those things meant to break our hearts or steal our joy God uses it to build up our faith and trust in Him.
- After leaving the desert Jesus goes where the people are to begin His public ministry, Galilee was an immensely crowded area with over **240** villages each having a population of over **15,000** people. Just for the record the events recorded in **Jn 1:19- 4:45**, took place at this time but Mathew, Mark, and Luke don't mention them, instead they jump right into the Lord's ministry in Galilee, and Luke alone reports that Jesus also visits His hometown of Nazareth as well.
- **V17-20** after coming to His hometown Synagogue (His church) where people knew His family, and by now people have heard of Him because the wedding at Cana, His baptism by John in the desert, Him driving out the money changers from the Temple, meeting with tax collectors like Nicodemus, and talking with the Samaritan woman has all happened. So they were very interested to hear what this Man Whom they had known His whole life had to say in front of them, and He opens the book to Is 61 and He reads from a familiar text then sits down wow!
- A typical synagogue service consist of an opening prayer for God's blessing, then reciting the "**schema**", **Deut 6:4**, followed by prayer and reading from both the Law and the Prophets, finally a sermon was given by either someone of the congregation or a visiting Rabbi, and if a priest was present he gave the benediction, if not one of the laymen prayed and dismissed everyone.
- So the opening prayer for God's blessing had been given, the reciting of the "**Schema**" and the reding of the Law and Prophets, now their waiting on the sermon and Jesus is asked to speak. He reads **Is 61:1-2**- Jesus tells them that the Spirit is upon Him because He is "anointed" people in the OT were anointed with oil prior to performing special services for God, like a priest, and the oil on the head was an outward expression of the real spiritual work going on inside them.

- Oil is representative of the Holy Spirit and we saw the Holy Spirit come upon Him at His baptism, and here in reading these verses we're told that this experience is for His ministry that will require both effort and work. The power of the Spirit is not just for us to resist the Devil but we need the Power of the Spirit to withstand rejection and intense opposition of the gospel also.
- Jesus lists six things that He will do > **1st Preach to the poor**- not economically but spiritually, **2nd Heal the brokenhearted**- those who this world has let down, **3rd Proclaim liberty to the captives**- people in bondage to sin, **4th Recovery of sight for the blind**- open people's eyes to the truth, **5th Set at liberty those who are oppressed**- to free folks emotionally, mentally, physically, spiritually, **6th to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord**- today is the day of salvation.
- These verses spoke of the coming Messiah and the year of jubilee, where every seventh year the land was allowed to rest, and every **50th** year after seven Sabbaticals the Jews set slaves free, foreclosed property went back to the original owner, and debts were forgiven, and everyone rejoiced in the Lord. They knew exactly what He meant by reading this, and for some they were excited, but for many they were upset because they liked the way things were and didn't want it to change even though it was corrupt-oppressive as long as it benefitted them they were okay.
- **V20** He closed the book because the rest of the verse spoke of the 1,000yr Millennium which wasn't going to happen until Jesus second coming when He establishes His rule and reign on earth but they didn't understand that just yet. **V21-22** people expected an explanation of what He just read and Jesus gives them the **shortest sermon** in history (**1 sentence**), but with these words He answered two questions > **1st** who Isaiah wrote this of- He wrote of Me Jesus says, **2nd** when will this happen- right now Jesus says, now we'll see the people's response to all this.
- The first response is amazement, "**marvel**" at His gracious words, the way He spoke it was inviting, but there was also another response in the crowd and that of anger as some said "hold up isn't this Joseph's boy" we know you, your momma, your siblings, ain't nothing special about y'all, that's my DC southern accent- haha. **V23-27** Jesus goes on further and in answering their objections we get some insight into what they were looking for and the first thing was a miracle to validate Who He was and why they should listen to Him who their not impressed with.
- We heard what you did in "Capernaum" now do something like that here in front of us, prove yourself their saying and maybe we'll believe you. Jesus uses two examples where the Jews were guilty and a gentile was the hero > **1st** he speaks of Elijah one of their favorites, and during a 3 ½ yr famine because of their sin, it was difficult to find one person who was living obediently to God among the Jewish population, that the Lord found it necessary to send His prophet to a gentile named "Zaraephath" in order for him to be sustained during this prolong famine
- **2nd** He does the same thing with the story of Naaman the Syrian, where God overlooked all the lepers in Israel to heal and sent His prophet Elisha to a gentile in order to heal him of his leprosy and not a Jewish person. Jesus says this in a Jewish Synagogue in front of a bunch of Jewish Nationalist who believe that non Jews were only created to die and be thrown into the fire in order to keep the flames of Hell burning, so you can imagine how this is going to end.

- **V28-30** needless to say they didn't like the sermon and they grab Jesus intending on throwing Him off a hill to kill Him, this shows people **love truth when it agrees with them** but **hate truth when it accuses them**. What's amazing is Jesus could have turned on them in revenge for trying to kill Him but instead He simply disappears out of their grasp. They wanted to see a miracle Jesus does an unexpected one right in front of them escaping the murderous mob miraculously.
- **V31-34** Jesus doesn't force Himself on anyone He leaves and goes to Capernaum and teaches there and they are amazed how Jesus wasn't just suggesting that the scripture is a good way of living He was stating it as a fact. When speaking about God's Word don't act like it came from you and therefore if someone wants to reject it its okay, as they need to find a way that works for them, **Jn 14:6** Jesus said "He is the only way and there is no other way to God but through Him" it's not by my words or my tone but its by His Word that makes us effective speakers.
- **V35-39** Satan is not afraid of church services, church rituals or church people as he's found in there also, the only thing that shakes him or his realm is the name and power of Jesus. The world may not know Jesus but the demonic and satanic certainly do, and even when they try and speak truth notice Jesus shuts them up, that means don't listen to anything they have to say **Acts 19:13-20**- its not a method or a phrase but a relationship that defeats the enemy.
- We saw Jesus dealing with the demonic in God's house, now He's dealing with a fever in Peter's house, and it shows that He's just as concerned with home as He is with the church. Peter's mother in Law is sick and Jesus comes and heals her, and notice after she's healed she immediately begins to not only serve Him but everyone else around, what an example of the Christian life, as Jesus heals us but not so we can do our own thing and live our best life.
- It's so that we can serve him better, **V40-44** Luke is a doctor so his commentary is very detailed as he emphasizes that Jesus laid hands on everyone that was brought to Him and healed them. I like how Jesus doesn't take accolades from the demonic even if its true **V41** He just shuts them up. One of the most effective tactics of the enemy is to get people who don't know the Lord, or care about the Lord, to be in positions where their talking about the things of the Lord, even though their lives are a mess, and their motives are amiss, they keep talking.
- Even after the **2nd** service, and baptisms, and more bible study, the people cant get enough, they want more, and Jesus gives them what they needed. There was times where Jesus had to get alone with God despite the people being needy, because the work is plentiful and the time is short, but we always need to remember to never forget we also need time with the Lord ourselves, because before we can serve we first must need to have been touched by the Lord.