

# FAMILY DEVOTIONS

A weekly study to strengthen families



## His Mission

BY PASTOR TURNER

LUKE 4:16-22 *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. 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, 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, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. 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. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. 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?*

Of the hundreds of Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament, Isaiah 61 stands out as it chronicles what would be the mission of the coming Messiah. As Jesus began His earthly ministry He read Isaiah's prophecy in the synagogue then gave a shocking interpretation of the verses - the prophecy was in fact being fulfilled in that very moment. Jesus' proclamation was nothing short of a declaration that He was the prophesied Messiah!

Jesus' mission was clearly articulated by Isaiah and read aloud for all to hear. It consisted of six points, found in Luke 4:18-19. While Jesus fulfilled His mission on the earth, it did not end with His earthly ministry; He is still healing, delivering, and saving! Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8), and what He did while on the earth He is still able to do by His Spirit and through His body on the earth - the Church.

## Application

The first duty assigned to the Messiah in Isaiah 61, and repeated in Luke 4, was to preach the Gospel to the poor. The word translated "poor" does not only mean a lack of financial resources, but also a general helplessness and powerlessness to accomplish an end goal. The significance of this being first in order is that without recognizing our inability to do anything without Christ, He is unable to help us in any of the subsequent areas. Let us embrace our weaknesses and inabilities, and in so doing, release the power of God in our lives. *Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven* (Matthew 5:3).

## Discussion

1. The words "deliverance" and "liberty" in Luke 4:18 are the same Greek word, which means not only freedom, but also forgiveness. Why is this so important for both the captive and the bruised (crushed, shattered)?
2. Why is it critical for the spiritually blind to receive their sight?
3. Can 2020, with all of its challenges, still be *the acceptable year of the Lord*? Is God using these crises to do a new thing in the earth?

## Prayer Focus

Pray for opportunities to preach the gospel.

Pray for healing for the broken hearted.

Pray for deliverance for the captives.

Pray the spiritually blind will receive their sight.

Pray for the bruised and crushed to receive liberty by releasing all offense, bitterness, and unforgiveness towards those who have hurt them.

Pray for faith to receive a double portion in this, the acceptable year of the Lord. *For your shame you shall have double* (Isaiah 61:7).

ISAIAH 61:7 MSG *Because you got a double dose of trouble and more than your share of contempt, Your inheritance in the land will be doubled and your joy go on forever.*