

## Jesus Reveals His Mission - Luke 4:16-21 (VFC – 2/18/2024)

### Jesus reads from the prophet Isaiah at Nazareth

1. The passage begins with Jesus' claim that the "Spirit of the Lord is upon me."
  - Jesus' hearers may not have fully realized that at His baptism, Jesus had not simply been anointed for ministry but as Messiah.
  - As such, He reveals God's will and brings God's promise. (Luke 3:21-22)
2. The purpose of the anointing is to:
  - Preach good news (Matthew 5:3; John 10:10; James 2:5).
  - Declare freedom for the captives (John 8:33-36)
  - Recover sight to the blind (Matthew 13:11-13)
  - Set at liberty those who are oppressed (Luke 13:15-16)
  - Proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

"Some interpreters tie this to the year of Jubilee (Lev. 25), where debts were cancelled and slaves were set free. . . Jesus was referring to a new day of God bringing salvation."

*R.T. France – Teaching from the Text.*

### The Aftermath

1. At first, they were impressed. (Luke 4:22)
2. Jesus' response though sought to bring out their underlying attitudes (vv. 23-27). This encounter ends with an enraged crowd ready to throw Jesus off a cliff. But something that the Scriptures don't elaborate on happened. He passed through the midst of them and went on his way (Luke 4:28–30). He visited Nazareth a second time (Matthew 13:53-58) and was rejected once again.

### Epilogue

After the rejection at Nazareth, Jesus travelled to Capernaum. This was His home base for His Galilean ministry. While the unbelief at Nazareth disqualified the people from receiving His miracle working power, those at Capernaum were "amazed at the things He said because He spoke with authority" (Luke 4:32). This resulted in a demonized man being delivered. This propelled Jesus' ministry as the story of what happened "spread like wildfire throughout the whole region" (v. 37).