

¹⁴ Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region. ¹⁵ He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. ¹⁷ The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the LORD is upon me,
for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released,
that the blind will see,
that the oppressed will be set free,
¹⁹ and that the time of the LORD's favor has come."

²⁰ He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. ²¹ Then he began to speak to them. "The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!"

— Luke 4:14-21

Discussion/Journal Questions

What are your initial thoughts about this week's sermon on extreme poverty? What did you learn for the first time?

Have two or three people read Luke 4:14-21 out loud slowly. After some time of reflection, ask each other what words, phrases, or ideas stand out to everyone. What questions come to mind as you meditate on this scripture?

Who are the poor, captive, blind, and oppressed Jesus is referring to in verse 18?

In the sermon, John described the extreme poverty faced by 8.5% of the world's population. What stood out to you the most in his description?

What should be the Christian community's response to poverty?

Over the next few weeks, we ask you to pray and fast for the work of MOHI (Missions of Hope International) and how God might call you to support their work.