

## **GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES** (January 16, 2022)

FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

This morning we join together in one service to demonstrate our unity as a church (we do this from time to time), and to remember the reason Jesus entered into our world. Jesus came to: proclaim good news to the poor, proclaim freedom to those being held captive, to restore sight to the blind, to release those oppressed, and to proclaim the time of God's favor.

The church does not exist to ensure its own survival. God will take care of that. The church exists for this same purpose: to proclaim the Good News of God, helping others meet Jesus, who is the only source of real and lasting healing and freedom. Together at Grace we want to live this out in both spiritual and practical ways as we seek to **Love God and Love Others**. This morning we are taking a very tangible step as we proclaim God's favor, and ask Him to clear away obstacles littering our path. When we fail others, and ourselves, we confess those failings and ask for God's good favor. He offers us forgiveness and mercy and that leads to the freedom He intends. This is for us, for our community, for the world. Good News!

### **Rocks on the Road** (Luke 4:14-30)

<sup>14</sup> And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country.

<sup>15</sup> And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

<sup>16</sup> And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. <sup>17</sup> And the scroll of the **prophet Isaiah** was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

<sup>18</sup> 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'

<sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> And he began to say to them, '**Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.**' <sup>22</sup> And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' And he said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Physician, heal yourself." What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.'" <sup>24</sup> And he said, 'Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in

his hometown. <sup>25</sup> But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, <sup>26</sup> and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. <sup>27</sup> And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.' <sup>28</sup> When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. <sup>29</sup> And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. <sup>30</sup> But passing through their midst, he went away."

### **What Does it Say?**

1. What does this passage tell us about Jesus' mission?
2. What does this passage say about Jesus' relationship with the Synagogue (verses 15, 16)?
3. What does this passage tell us about how His hometown reacted to His message? Why were they so mad?

### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

4. What does it mean that "Today this scripture is fulfilled" (v.21)?
5. Why did Jesus mention two miracles that happened outside of the nation of Israel (vv. 25-27)? Why was that important?
6. What do the various parts of the Isaiah passage mean?

### **WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?**

7. In one or two sentences write down Jesus' mission on earth?
8. What are the parts of Jesus message that you like the most ... and the parts you like the least?
9. What obstacles in your life need to be removed before you can move forward in your relationship with God and with others?
10. What do you need to confess to God? Is there anyone you've hurt (intentionally or unintentionally)? Do you need to say something to them? If so, what should you say to them?

As you spend time praying remember that prayer is not supposed to be a burden. Prayer should be the most natural, easy, and empowering part of your day. Prayer is talking to God, knowing He is your friend, that He hears you, and that He loves you. In your prayers ask God to give you a heart for those who are hurting, those oppressed. Ask God to reveal mistakes (sins) you've made (in both your thoughts and deeds). Ask for God's forgiveness. He will forgive you. Ask God to help you forgive those who have hurt you. He will.