

Sermon Notes
Jan 27/19 – Luke 4:16-30
Hope Revealed 4: Bringing Freedom for the Captives

Summary: We need to receive favor from God to have hope when facing the big challenges of life. But what do we do when our circumstances threaten to crush us and it seems like all favor has left us? We continue to have faith in God, for the assurance of His favor is not our actions or circumstances but God's actions and His promises to us and God is never closer to us than when we need Him most.

Core Idea: God's favor toward us is constant even when circumstances in this world may imply that God's favor has failed us.

Intro: "I'm his favourite!"

I. Favor

- A. We need to receive _____
 - 1. Favor is _____, liking or support for someone or something.
 - 2. When we are at our weakest, we need to see ourselves through the eyes of _____ in order to have hope that there are better days to come
 - 3. We need the favor of parents, _____ and God
- B. What do we do when it feels like all favor for us is gone?

II. Jesus in the Synagogue in Nazareth

- A. Freedom for the Captives (Luke 4:16-22)
 - 1. God chose the family of _____ to be His favored people in the world
 - 2. God was going to bless all people in the world through Abraham's family by providing a _____, a Saviour, who would overcome all evil, heal all brokenness and renew and restore all of creation.
 - 3. The people of ancient Israel were often beleaguered and oppressed

4. But, through the prophets, God would assure them again and again that He still favored them and that He would _____ them. (Isa. 61:2-4)

5. _____ was the Messiah that Isaiah wrote about (Luke 4:21)

B. Confrontation (Luke 4:23-30)

C. What was Jesus saying/doing?

1. Your circumstances are not an accurate indication of God's

2. You aren't the only people who are favored by _____

III. **Application** - How does this apply to us?

A. We tend to think

1. Doing good things + getting good _____ = I am favored by God

2. The problem with this way of thinking is that it makes God's favor dependent on our _____ and our circumstances

a) Not only is this not true

b) It will _____ us

B. The Bible tells us that God's favor is not dependent on good circumstances or our good deeds

1. God's favor toward us is _____ even when circumstances in this world may imply that God's favor has failed us

2. The circumstances that really count are your circumstances in relation to _____

3. Those circumstances are _____ now

a) One day those circumstances will become visible for everyone to see

b) Those hidden circumstances are real and _____

4. You can _____ that you really do have God's favor
- a) even when it seems like your world is crashing down around you
 - b) For God's favor will never _____ you
 - c) God is closest to you in those moments when it may feel like He is far away. (Ps. 34:17-18)
 - d) And with God on your side you can know that things will be alright in the _____

IV. **Conclusion:** Action step

- A. Spend a few moments this week asking yourself, "How do I know that God loves and favors me?"
- B. Find a Bible verse that promises you that God's love and favor for you will never fail