

Luke 4:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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,

Analysis

Jesus quotes Isaiah 61:1-2, applying this messianic prophecy to Himself and defining His mission in terms of liberation for the oppressed. The Greek word 'euangelizō' (preach the gospel) encompasses both proclamation and the good news itself, demonstrating that the gospel brings concrete deliverance. Luke emphasizes Jesus' ministry to the marginalized—the poor, brokenhearted, captives, blind, and bruised—reflecting themes that permeate his entire Gospel. Notably, Jesus stops mid-sentence from Isaiah, omitting 'the day of vengeance,' reserving that aspect for His second coming.

Historical Context

Delivered in the Nazareth synagogue at the beginning of Jesus' Galilean ministry (around 27-28 AD), this programmatic statement announced His messianic mission to His hometown. Isaiah 61 was recognized as a messianic prophecy, and Jesus' claim to fulfill it would have been understood as a direct claim to messiahship, provoking both wonder and hostility.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' mission to the marginalized challenge your understanding of what the gospel accomplishes?
2. In what ways are you experiencing spiritual poverty, captivity, or blindness that requires Jesus' liberating work?

Interlinear Text

Πνεῦμα κυρίου ἐπ' ἐμέ οὗ ἕνεκεν ἔχρισέν με
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me G4151 G2962 G1909 G1691 G3739 **because he hath anointed me** G1752 G5548 G3165

εὐαγγελίζεσθαι πτωχοῖς ἀποστεῖλαι με ἰάσασθαι τοὺς
to preach the gospel to the poor he hath sent me to heal G2097 G4434 G649 G3165 G3588 G2390

συντετριμμένους τὴν καρδίαν, κηρύξαι αἰχμαλώτοις
the brokenhearted G4937 G3588 G2588 **to preach to the captives** G2784 G164

ἀφέσει καὶ τυφλοῖς ἀνάβλεψιν ἀποστεῖλαι
deliverance and to the blind recovering of sight he hath sent G859 G2532 G5185 G309 G649

τεθραυσμένους ἐν ἀφέσει
them that are bruised at deliverance G2352 G1722 G859

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 61:1 (Spirit): The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

Matthew 11:5 (Parallel theme): The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

Acts 10:38 (Spirit): How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Luke 7:22 (Parallel theme): Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.

Acts 26:18 (Parallel theme): To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Isaiah 42:7 (Parallel theme): To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

John 12:46 (Parallel theme): I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

1 Peter 2:9 (Parallel theme): But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Colossians 1:13 (Parallel theme): Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Isaiah 32:3 (Parallel theme): And the eyes of them that see shall not be dim, and the ears of them that hear shall hearken.

