

Luke 4: 14-22

The Year of the Lord's Favor

“Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: **‘The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’** Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, ‘Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.’ All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. ‘Isn’t this Joseph’s [i.e. not the Old Testament Joseph] son?’ they asked.”

In these verses, Jesus had just returned from his 40 day temptation in the wilderness to participate in the synagogue on the Sabbath day. He stood to read from Isaiah 61 that the Spirit of the Lord was upon Him, and that Jesus was Himself fulfilling this prophesy on this day! Thankfully for those in Jesus’ hearing and for us today, he read the scripture which proclaims the year of the Lord’s favor, but he did NOT finish Isaiah 61:2, which concludes with “and the day of vengeance of our God.”

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