

Isaiah 61: 1-2, 9

The Year of the Lord's Favor

In Luke 4: 14-22, 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 these verses from a scroll containing Isaiah 61, that the Spirit of the Lord was upon Him, and that Jesus was Himself fulfilling this prophecy on that day!

“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 captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor [note that when Jesus read these verses in Luke 4:18-19 fulfilling this scripture in Himself, He stopped reading here with “the Lord’s favor”!] and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. . . . Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed. ”

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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--"and the day of vengeance of our God."

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**Dr. Robert J. Rapalje, Retired
Seminole State College of Florida
Altamonte Springs Campus
Email: rapaljer@mathinlivingcolor.com**