

SERVE THE ONE TRUE GOD

Wednesday, November 8, 2006

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Luke 4:14-30

14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

18 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,

19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

22 And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

23 And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.

24 And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.

25 But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;

26 But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.

27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.

28 And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,

29 And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong.

30 But he passing through the midst of them went his way,

As you read the first part of chapter four, you will find out that Jesus has just went through forty days of fasting and as He comes out, He is tempted of the devil. Jesus uses the *Word of God* to overcome the temptation. The Bible says that the devil leaves Him for a season. He leaves Him alone for awhile. There is a good lesson in that for us.

When we are tempted, we need to use the Word of God. That's why we need to know more about the Word of God. When temptation comes--it's not "if" we will be tempted, we "will" be tempted—everyone of us here, I don't care how old you are or how young you are; there will be things in our life that will come and tempt us to try to draw us away from God. So we are going to be tempted. If we know the Word of God, if we will stand upon the Word of God, and if we will use it for our defense; then the devil will leave us for awhile, but he will be back. However, we have a defense and that's the Word of God.

It's not your own strength, not your own power, not your own abilities. No. That's not a defense for the devil that will not keep him from destroying us. The Word of God is what will defend us and the Word of God will deliver us through temptation.

The Bible says that when this happens:

“14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there

went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his

custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and

stood up for to read.”

Nazareth was the city where Jesus was raised. We know that He was born in Bethlehem. We know that He went and spent some time in Egypt. However, there came a time when they brought Him to Nazareth and that's where He was raised at. That's where He spent His early years until the time that He was thirty years old, or maybe a little bit after that.

Nazareth was not a big place. Most everybody knew everybody. Maybe some people didn't know everybody, but most knew everybody because it was a small town.

This is where Jesus was at. The Bible says in verse 16, *“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.”* He went into the synagogue and He came in to read. Things were a little bit different then than they are now. When they went to synagogue, the leaders of the synagogue would appoint someone to read from the Old Testament scriptures. They would ask someone to read and then that person, after they would read they would go over, sit down and then they would expound, or they would talk about/teach from the scriptures that they had read.

As we look at this portion of scripture here; they had heard (the people here at Nazareth) about the things that Jesus was doing in Capernaum and other places. They had asked Him that if He would come and read from the scriptures and talk; so this is what Jesus was doing here.

The Bible uses a word *“custom.”* That means something that He ordinarily did. Something that He was accustomed to doing, or something that was not out of the ordinary. In other words, Jesus went to synagogue. What that is telling us is that we need to have a custom about going to church. We need to go to church. We need to

come to the house of God. We come here to praise our God because He done some great thing for you and I. If He hasn't done anything else for us except saved us; we still yet have got something to praise Him for. We need to come to the House of God and praise Him. Jesus was here and His custom was that He went to the House of God; He went to the synagogue. That should teach us something.

Here He is and “they” give Him (the minister, the one that is in authority in the synagogue) they take the book, or the scroll and they give it to Jesus. Look what He does. In verse seventeen, “*And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,*” If you go back to Isaiah chapter sixty-one that's where you will find the words that Jesus is about ready to read. He is going to tell them some things here, and He is going to be talking about Himself. As we read these things, I want you to think about the life and ministry of Jesus and those things that He did while He was here. A blind man could see that Jesus fulfilled what Isaiah, the Law, and the prophets all said about the Messiah, what He would do, and when He would come. Jesus found the place. He opened Isaiah chapter sixty-one. It wasn't in books and chapters like it is now. It was just all written on a scroll. He found this place.

The Bible says, “*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,*” Jesus is speaking about Himself and He's telling these folks that the “Spirit of the Lord is upon me.” If you go back and read a little bit, you will find out that when John was baptizing (baptizing all kinds of people) they were coming unto him and Jesus

came down there one day and He told John, "I want you to baptize me." Do you know what John said? John says, "Lord I can't do that." Then Jesus said, "This needs to be done to fulfill all righteousness." The Bible says that when John baptized Jesus and when Jesus comes up out of the water; John saw the heavens open up and the Spirit of God descending like a dove. The Spirit came and lit upon Him." Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me." Glory to His Name! Not only was the Spirit of God upon Jesus Christ, but I'm glad that He's in our hearts. If we are saved, not only was He upon Jesus Christ, but He's in us. He's somebody that's real. That blesses me all over to think about that!

In verse 18, "*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,*" The hand of God was upon Jesus Christ/the power of God; God the Father had commissioned, God the Son to come here to this earth and to preach the gospel. Through the agent of the Holy Spirit, He was going to have the power to do that. That is what He is telling us here. *There is one God manifested in three different persons.*

I know that there are a lot of people that says that Jesus said that He is the only One, but I'm glad that Jesus has a Father that's sitting in heaven. He's sitting upon the throne and I'm glad that His Son came to Calvary, died upon a cross and they put Him in a tomb, then He arose from the dead. I know that He ascended back to the Father. However, do you know what Jesus said? He said, that "I am going to go away and if I don't go away the comforter will not come. If I go away, I'll send you the comforter." I

am glad that we have Him on the inside. He's in our souls. I say, glory to His name! We are blessed people tonight.

The Bible says this: "...to preach the gospel..." Jesus came to preach the gospel. The gospel/the Good News... We know that the gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. We know that! The gospel is *Good News*. He's going to tell them who He is going to preach to.

If everything is going great in your life and you don't have any needs, you don't have any cares, you don't have any problems, and you don't have any pains; you can hear all kinds of news and it may not be necessarily what you consider good news. There were a lot people that were hurting when Jesus was here on this earth and there are a lot of people hurting today. We need to hear the *Good New* that Jesus Christ died and that He loves and that He will save us. That is Good News and that will bless your soul.

The Bible says, "...to preach the gospel to the poor..." This was not only to those who had no money; there were a lot of poor people then. He's talking about those that were bankrupt spiritually. Jesus came to preach unto those people. I was in that group and you were in that group. No. I wasn't walking around here on this earth when He was here. There came a time in my life that I was bankrupt spiritually and so were you.

I'm glad that someone got up one day and preached the gospel. It pierced my heart and it convicted me of my sin. It brought me to the place of repentance. I'm glad that God loves the poor. If He didn't love the poor, we would be in trouble because there aren't any rich people here. He said...to preach the gospel to the poor.

Now look what it says here: "...he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted..." Did you ever think about the crowds that were around Jesus to hear Him preach? They were common people. There were some rich people there, but they were very common people. The people that He preached unto were a lot of people that were brokenhearted.

Think about the little widow woman at Nain? Do you remember her? She was going towards the graveyard with her son. Do you think that she was brokenhearted? Her only son and she was a widow and they were going towards the graveyard to bury her only son. She was brokenhearted. Jesus came to preach to her.

Can you imagine the lepers that Jesus dealt with? The leprosy when it took control of an individual's body having it separated them from being able to go to the synagogue. How it separated them from being able to have fellowship with other people. When they would walk down the street they would have to holler out, "unclean, unclean." They couldn't associate with anybody. Could you imagine being a leper? Do you think those folks were brokenhearted? I promise you that they were brokenhearted.

Do you remember the lunatic that was over in Gadarenes? Do you think that he was broken hearted? There are so many that we could talk about tonight. Jesus Christ came here to heal those that were brokenhearted. I'm glad that hasn't changed any. The gospel is still yet going out. It can bind up and it can heal those hearts that are broke.

Listen, I know that we go through terrible times in life. Let's listen to the voice of God and He'll help us through whatever comes our way because He cares about our hearts being broke. We could talk an hour just on that one thing. At one point He came to heal the brokenhearted.

“...to preach deliverance to the captives...” When you read that in the Greek, it brings out the idea of prisoners of war. We were prisoners. We were being held captive by sin. There are so many people that we could read about here in the scriptures that were being held captive by sin. Satan had them bound. Do you remember the woman who had the issue of blood for twelve years? She had a disease that she couldn't get rid of. She was bound.

Do you remember reading about the nobleman's son? Do you remember the Centurion's servant? We could read about so many that had been touched by sin and by Satan himself. **There was never a case that was too hard for our Lord.** There was never a case where someone was so bound, so tight with the chains that the Lord could not release him from the chains that were binding him.

You know what you might think tonight? You might think that you have been too bad. You have been too mean and the enemy has got you held captive that you could never get out. *I've got Good News for you.* There was One that came, He preached deliverance to the captives and He can set you free.

Do you remember the night that He set you free? Do you remember the time that He came into your heart and set you free from sin? If you have been set free from sin you ought to holler as loud as you can holler. We couldn't save ourselves. We couldn't rescue ourselves. We had no way of being released from our sin. Thank God, Jesus loves us enough that He released us from the sin that held us captive.

I've been in jail before (not since I've got saved). It's great to be set free. I can remember them coming and opening the doors so that I could get out. Some of you can relate to that. I can remember the night very plainly where He set me free. Being held

captive by sin and by satan, its a horrible place to get in life. Sin will take you down a road that you don't want to go. It will take you a whole lot further than you thought that you would travel it. If you don't get off of it, it will destroy you. It will damn your soul, but Jesus came to save you. Jesus came to set you free.

The Bible says, "...and recovering of sight to the blind..." Do you remember the guy that was born blind? The disciples came to Jesus and said who did sin this man or his parents that he was born blind?" Jesus said that neither did this man sin nor his parents but that the glory of God might be made manifest in him. Do you know what Jesus done? Jesus just made some clay one time. He spit on the ground and He took the dust and mixed with the spittle and He anointed this guy's eyes that were blind. That don't make any sense to me, does it you? If I was going to try to heal somebody's eyes that were blind, I wouldn't be putting dirt in them.

His ways are not our ways. His ways are a whole lot higher than our ways. His thoughts are higher than our thoughts. When this guy went down to the pool and washed, the Bible says that he went down there, he washed, and he came seeing. Jesus said, "The Spirit of God is upon me...He sent me to preach...He sent me to recover the sight to the blind."

Do you remember blind Bartimaeus? He sat by the highway begging. Jesus was coming down out of Jericho one day and Bartimaeus began to cry out, "Jesus, thou Son of David; have mercy on me." The crowd tries to get him to shut up and he just continues to cry out and after awhile they come over and get him. They say to him, why don't you be quiet. He's calling for you. Jesus said, "What do you want me to do?" He says, "I want to receive my sight." Do you know what Jesus said? "You can see." I'm

glad that *there is nothing too hard for my Lord*. Not only can He heal these physical eyes, but our spiritual eyes also. The Bible says that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. Every one of us, there was time in our lives that we needed to get saved. We needed new eye sight. I'm glad that if you are saved, you can see and you are seeing spiritually. It's because Jesus Christ came. It's because of Him that we can see spiritually.

“...to set at liberty them that are bruised...” To them that are misused. To them that this world hammers and beats down. There are so many people today in our church world that people look down upon because they may not have good clothes, they may not come from the right side of the tracks, or they may not have a family lineage that you think that they should have. Before you ever start running a class of people down, I don't care whether they are black, white, Indians or whoever they are; before you ever start running somebody down, you would be better off to pull your tongue out of your head, cut it off and never speak another word in your life, because God loves everybody.

When He died at Calvary, when He shed His precious blood; He shed His precious blood for everybody. For the rich, the poor, those that smell good, those that don't smell good, it doesn't matter what color you are; when Jesus died, He died for them. Don't fall into that trap. If you really think that, I feel sorry for you. If you live very long, you have got a long road ahead of you because we reap what we sow.

The Bible says in verse 19, “...to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.” Jesus said here that He had been sent to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. What that means is that today is the day of Salvation. That's what Isaiah was talking about that

when Messiah would come that He would fulfill all these things that Isaiah said/prophesied that the Messiah would do when He come.

Look what happens here. The Bible says in verse 20, *“And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.”* Then He says these words in verse 21, *“And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.”* In others words, what Isaiah said 750 years ago, He said that you are seeing if fulfilled in your eyes today because who Isaiah wrote about; I'm Him.

Verse 22 says; *“And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?”* They were astonished. He was a hometown boy. They said how could He have so much knowledge and wisdom. We know Him. He ran in our streets. We saw Him grow up around here. This is Joseph's son. They were just amazed.

He mentions two events that happened. Jesus knew that the city of Nazareth was going to reject Him. He mentions two things. He mentions about Naaman and the widow woman at Sarepta. Both of these people were Gentile people. Naaman was a Gentile and the widow woman at Serepta was a Gentile.

Jesus said that there was a whole lot more lepers in the land of Israel than just one, but the prophet of God was only sent to one and that was to a Gentile.

He talks about that there was a whole lot of widows in the land at this particular time, but the man of God was only sent to one; up the road to a Gentile widow. Jesus said that the prophet of God was only sent to one Gentile widow.

The Bible says that they were filled with madness. They went into a rage when they heard that.

Do you know why Jesus said what He said here and do you know what He is trying to get them to understand? They understood very plainly. Naaman *believed* the Words of God and he was healed. The widow woman *believed* the prophet of God and God took care of her until it rained. What Jesus is saying here is this. These two Gentile people *believed* me and they proved that they believed me by what they did but this nation says that they believe me and they say that they are following God but they are not really following God. What He is saying is; there is a difference between saying that we are following Him and actually following Him. That's what He is trying to get these folks to believe.

Do you know what they did when they heard that? When they heard that they led Him out to the edge of the hill to throw Him over it, but He just passed through the midst of them and went His way.

What I am telling you is this. Let's make sure that our profession is real. Let's make sure that we are serving the True and the Living God. Let's just don't go through the motions. Let's just don't go through all the motions and go through the programs. Let's make sure that we are serving the real God. And if we will do that, just as He healed Naaman, just as He took care of this widow woman; He'll take care of us if we will just simply believe Him.