

Fourth Sunday: Luke 4:14-21 People's Expectations Are Different

Introduction: People get different things out of going to church, depending on what they expect to get when they go there.

Context: Jesus' short sermon: "Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing". (Luke 4:21 NIV). Jesus's sermon was the shortest on record. What did this message mean to the people in the synagogue? What does it mean to you today?

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To the people in the synagogue, it meant that Jesus was the promised Messiah sent by God to save his people.

When Jesus read the Scriptures in the synagogue, Jesus announced a "jubilee", a forgiveness of sin debt. In Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer, which is found in Luke 11:3, there is a sentence that reads as follows: "Forgive us our debts for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us". The biblical Jubilee was held every 50 years when farmland lay fallow, families returned to their ancestral homelands, and reconciliation was done. If there was any debt between families, then it was cancelled.

We find out from the Scripture that Jesus designed a new theology, a new sense of the presence and glory of God found not written in the walls of the tabernacle, but within the hearts of people.

"Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other,..." Hebrews 10:25 (Common English Bible),

"Some people have gotten out of the habit of meeting for worship, but we must not do that. We should keep on encouraging each other,..." Heb.10:25 (Contemporary English Version).

Conclusion: When the Spirit of the Lord is upon us, then we can set the captives, the poor, the blind and the oppressed free. It was the mission of Jesus Christ, and it should be our mission today.