

Today this Scripture Has Been Fulfilled

Sermon Series: Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 4:14-21



Big Idea

Jesus announces a new beginning for any who would trust in Him.

(1) Jesus' Identity (v. 18a)

It is perhaps impossible to do justice to the full flow of prophetic thought and expectation that Jesus is tapping into by reading from Isa 61:1-2. In the book of Isaiah, we are told that the apostasy, the God-dethroning rebellion, the sin-sickness of both Israel and the nations can only be remedied by one figure, by one coming individual. And this individual will be marked out by the fact that the Spirit of God is upon Him.

In Isa 59:20-21 this individual with the Spirit upon Him is called the Redeemer. In Isa 42:1 He's called the Servant. In Isa 11:1-2 He's shown to be the Messiah. He's the Messianic-Servant-Redeemer. And in Luke 4:14-21, we come to see that His name is Jesus. Jesus is the lone figure, the coming One, the hope of Israel and the nations, and of everyone in this room!

(2) Jesus' Mission (v. 18b-21)

The background to the text in Isaiah, and this "year of the Lord's favor", is the Year of Jubilee described by God for Israel in Lev 25. It was a year of new beginnings. It was a year that reminded the people that the earth and all its fullness, even we His people, ultimately belong to the Lord. It was a year that displayed for all the gracious, redeeming, liberating heart of YHWH. It was a year that was to point them forward to a coming final liberation—the dawning of a new age in which justice, righteousness, liberty, love, peace would flourish!

And Jesus, in a little synagogue, in a little town, reads this text, sits down, and says: "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled!" God has anointed Him with the Spirit to redeem a people and usher in this new age!

"God receives none but those who are forsaken, restores health to none but those who are sick, gives sight to none but the blind, and life to none but the dead. He does not give saintliness to any but sinners, nor wisdom to any but fools. . . . He has mercy on none but the wretched and gives grace to none but those who are in disgrace" (Martin Luther). So long as we think we have something to give God we can receive nothing from Him. But when at last we realize we have nothing to give God, we are ready to receive everything from Him!

Jesus has come for the poor, the captive, the blind, and the oppressed. In other words: Jesus has come for me and you.

Reflection Questions



- Describe your understanding of the Spirit-filled life. How does the Spirit's relationship with Jesus give us a clearer picture of it? Do you feel like you've been living it?
- Jesus speaks to us from the Bible. How have you experienced this personally? Have you been reading your Bible lately? How has this affected your relationship with Jesus?
- A person's physical need often alerts him to his spiritual need and throws His heart open to the possibility of a relationship with Christ. How have you experienced this personally? How have you experienced this in your attempts to minister to others?