



Luke 4:14-21
New International Version

¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” **Isaiah 61:1-2**

²⁰ 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. ²¹ He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Devouring wolves of the soul (ambition, pride, resentment, greed)



Sermon Notes

We live in a cannibalistic world attempting to control it, consume it and conquer it.

Prisoners of Ambition (*I am what I attain, rise above*)

Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun (Eccl 2:11)

Blinded by Affluence (*I am what I control*)

“I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners” Eccl. 5:13

Oppressed by Anger (*I am in comparison to others*)

“If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.” Gal. 5:15

Gospel Alternative

1. Adoption: New Relationship to God

“The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” Romans 8:15

2. Attitude: New Relationship to Life

Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Ps 90:12
Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.” Mark 9:35

3. Agenda: New Relationship to Time

What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? Mt 16:26

LIVING WORD

At coffee break in a church conference I attended recently, a third-year seminary student approached me with a good question. “You were talking about me when you spoke of church people who are respectfully bored with Jesus. Yet, you seem to talk about him as if he's fascinating, dynamic, and engaging even today. How can I see Jesus this way?”

That opener led to a fruitful discussion about the basic need to know the earthly life of Jesus Christ. Apart from Revelation 14:4, all references to “following Jesus” are of him as a living breathing, controversial man living in this world yet seeing the potential of it differently. The Son of God—yes! But just as emphatically we must say he is the Son of Humanity, authentically human!

How can we better know and follow in order to become like Jesus Christ? Master the facts (why, when, how and to whom) and the implications of his earthly life and mission. That is how the first disciples gradually were dispelled of their wrong notions and came to see who Jesus of Nazareth really was—a divine Messiah, the Son of God, the universal Savior, the perfect example of what we should and can become. “Fully mature in Christ.”

They left behind historical records of his life. When you willingly choose to pick up the Scriptures you've chosen to engage the most comprehensive record of that life, *The Bible is good news of new hope and new joy.*

Find a purpose to serve, not a lifestyle to regret.