

Jesus' Mission

Reading: Luke 4:14-21

9 – 10 – 2017

Introduction

This morning we'll concentrate on Jesus' purpose and mission — what he did and what he came to do — his work, his focus and his priorities.

We'll begin in Luke 4... In Luke 4, we are introduced to Jesus' ministry and mission.

After a short summary statement in 4:14-15, Luke describes Jesus, back in Nazareth, his hometown, in the synagogue on the Sabbath, reading from the scripture and teaching.

Within this narrative we are given an important mission statement to help us understand the focus and nature of Jesus' mission.

I. Jesus Was Sent By God

A. Jesus, On Mission From God

1. In Isaiah 61:1 the Messianic Servant says, "*The Spirit of the Lord YHWH is upon me, because YHWH has anointed me to bring good news...*"
2. In Acts 10, Peter would tell the household of Cornelius, "*You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power*" (10:38).
3. Jesus is on a mission from God. Jesus was sent by God and anointed by God.
4. And Jesus was anointed, not with oil like other prophets, priests and kings, but anointed with the very Spirit of God.

II. Jesus Was Sent With The Holy Spirit

A. An Important Theme In Isaiah

1. 3 times, Isaiah announces that God's Spirit would be upon the Messiah/Servant/Prophet as he accomplished his mission: (Isaiah 11:1 -2; 42:1-4; 61:1 – 3)

B. An Important Theme In Luke

1. In Luke 3, John describes the greatness of the Expected One and proclaims "*I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire*." (3:16)
2. Later In Luke 3, Jesus was baptized by John and "*while he was praying...the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, 'You are my beloved Son, in you I am well-pleased.'*" (3:21-22)
3. In Luke 4, after his baptism, Jesus returned from the Jordan, "*full of the Holy Spirit*" and "*was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness.*" (4:1)
4. Later in Luke 4, Luke summarizes Jesus' ministry: "*Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit*" and he was "*teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all.*" (4:14-15)

III. Jesus Was Sent For The Poor

A. Jesus, On Mission For Poor, Captives, Blind and Oppressed

B. Jesus' Miracles Demonstrate His Care and Focus

C. Jesus' Meals Demonstrate His Care and Focus

1. Luke, more than any other gospel emphasizes Jesus eating.
 - In Luke 19 Jesus invites himself to stay with Zaccheus.
2. Jesus was criticized for receiving hospitality from Zaccheus the tax collector.

3. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Luke 19:10
4. And in this we see ultimately a spiritual focus and priority.

D. Jesus, On Mission For The Spiritually Poor, Captives, Blind and Oppressed

1. As much emphasis as Luke places an emphasis on the socially marginalized — the physically poor and hungry — Luke’s greater emphasis and priority is on the spiritually poor and hungry.
2. And Luke 4 is ultimately talking about the spiritually poor and spiritually imprisoned and spiritually blind and spiritually oppressed.
3. These physical, felt needs are great, but the spiritual needs are greater.

IV. Jesus Was Sent To Preach

A. Luke Emphasizes the Priority of the Word

1. Luke emphasizes the priority of the word in Jesus’ growth:
2. Luke repeatedly shows Jesus teaching (e.g. Lk. 4:16, 31-32; 5:1, 3, 17; 6:6; 8:35; 9:11; 10:39; 13:10)
3. Luke records several examples of Jesus’ teaching (e.g. 6:20ff; 8:4ff; 15:1ff; etc.)
4. Luke repeatedly summarizes Jesus’ ministry as him teaching: (4:15, 44; 8:1; 13:22; 19:47; 21:37)
5. Luke repeatedly shows Jesus emphasizing the priority of the word:
6. Luke wants us to see the centrality of the word in the purpose and mission of Jesus.
 - Luke does not want us to miss this point.

B. The Word of God Was Central To The Ministry and Mission of Jesus

1. As wonderful and powerful as all the miracles of Jesus, there is something even more wonderful and more powerful about the message he proclaimed.
2. What does that tell us about this message?
3. Certainly the miracles and meals of Jesus accomplished a lot, but they would’ve accomplished very little apart from the message of Jesus.
4. Jesus knew that's what people needed the most. And Jesus pursued it with great urgency.

C. The Word of God Should Be Central In Our Lives As Well

1. If this is Jesus’ priority – if this is what Jesus was sent for – if this was central to the walk and ministry and mission of Jesus...
2. How much should we devote ourselves to the word — learning and growing in it — sharing it with others?!
3. The word of God was central to the life and mission of Jesus.
4. If we are following Jesus, the word of God will be central to our life as well.
5. It is never enough to meet physical needs or felt needs.

D. The Word of God Is Central To Discipleship

1. When Jesus called Simon, he said, *“Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men.”* (5:10)
2. When Jesus sent out the twelve, *“He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God”* (9:2) and they went out, *“preaching the gospel”* (9:6)
3. When Jesus talked to a would-be disciple he said, *“Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.”* (9:60)
4. It is amazing how followers of Jesus are actually called to follow Jesus.
5. Jesus was sent to proclaim the kingdom of God and sent disciples to proclaim the kingdom of God.

Conclusion: If we want to be called Christians — if we want to be followers of Jesus, let’s follow Jesus.