

## **The Purpose of Jesus' Ministry**

### **Luke 4:16 – 30**

Whenever we think about what the church should be doing and what its priorities should be, we should always look at the ministry of Jesus to define it for us. Jesus is our example of what the body of Christ and every individual Christian should be concerned with as we live our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. The ministry of Jesus began in a very distinct way with specific priorities that Jesus Himself proclaimed and which came from Old Testament prophecy. In this way, God shows that He has always had a continuous plan for the work of His Kingdom from the beginning of time.

This discussion is very important because there are numerous opinions nowadays on what the church should be doing in the community and the world. It is no coincidence that Jesus intentionally started out His ministry with this specific agenda. Certainly, as Jesus ministry progressed over the next three years, it took on different nuances of meaning and interpretation, but when you look at the core of it, the elements in this text today are always there in one form or another. The basis of Jesus' ministry will be the fulfillment of an Old Testament prophecy found in Isaiah 61:1-2. Jesus is the fulfillment of that prophecy and the people in the temple are witnessing the fulfillment of it right before their eyes. But as we see in the text, God can do things right in front of people's eyes and they can still be unable to see it. We see that;

#### **1) Jesus' Ministry is done through the power of the Spirit and the Anointing**

Jesus reads the scripture from Isaiah 61 that "the Spirit of the Lord is upon" Him and that He has been "anointed" to do this ministry. In addition to being "anointed" he has also been "sent" by the Lord to do this work. The Church and disciples of Jesus must always remember that we can only do the Lord's work if the Spirit of God is upon us. When the Spirit is upon us, we are anointed and sent to do ministry. If God anoints us and sends us, then He will be with us and bless what we do because it is not us, but rather Christ is working through us. It is tragic when Christians or the church attempt to do things and the Spirit is not upon us! How can you tell when the Spirit is upon you?

#### **2) Jesus' Ministry is about Evangelism, Healing and Liberation**

Notice how many times the word "preach" appears in verses 18-19. Three times we are admonished to "preach" messages to people who are in dire need. We are to preach to the poor, the captives, the blind, and generally preach the acceptable year of the Lord to all. We are to heal the brokenhearted and set at liberty those who are oppressed. The people who Jesus targeted were those who were in the most desperate life situations where preaching, healing and liberation were necessary. These were the priorities of Jesus' ministry. Who are the poor, blind, brokenhearted, oppressed and captive people who are around us today?

#### **3) Jesus Ministry was rejected and criticized**

We should not be surprised when we are rejected and criticized for trying to do this type of ministry. It happened to Jesus! Not from strangers, but from people who knew Him and knew of His ministry, family and upbringing. Criticism, rejection, anger and even threats may be the consequences of doing this type of ministry, but God will always protect you!