

Understanding the Messenger's Purpose in This Time

Scripture: Luke 4: 14-20

(14) Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about Him spread through all the surrounding country. (15) He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

(16) When He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was His custom. He stood up to read, (17) and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to Him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

(18) "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, (19) to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

(20) And He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him.

I. The Purpose for the Messenger – Matthew 9:37

1. Background on the Goal: The Problem

- a. Point 1: **Much Work** and *Few Workers* (Matt. 9:37a – The **harvest is plentiful**, but the *laborers are few*)
- b. Point 2: Ask God *for Workers* (Matt. 9:37b – Therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to ***send out laborers*** into His harvest)
- c. Point 3: Ask God **Where** He Wants His Workers (Matt 9:37b – Therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers **into His harvest**)

II. The Process of the Messenger Being Sent (Luke 4: 14-15)

1. God Sends You to Bootcamp (wilderness experience Luke 4:1-12)

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- a. Training
 - 1) Hearing God's voice
 - 2) Dealing with temptations
 - 3) Preparing to face your enemy (Jesus's case = Satan)
- b. **Filled with God's Power**
 - 1) Matthew 4:11; Mark 1:13 – **angels waited** on Him
 - 2) Luke 4:14 – filled with the **power of the Spirit**

2. God Sends You to Be Grounded in Unfamiliarity (Luke 4:14)

- a. Galilee
 - 1) Jesus knew of this place
 - 2) Jesus possibly did business here (carpentry)
 - 3) But Jesus did not **KNOW** this place
- b. Confirmation
 - 1) Following (Luke 4:14 – a report about Him spread through **all** the surrounding country)
 - 2) Success (Luke 4:14 – **a report** about Him spread through all the surrounding country)
 - 3) Added Opportunities (Luke 4:15 – He began to teach in synagogues)
 - 4) Respect and Honor (Luke 4:15 – **was praised by everyone**)

III. The Process of the Messenger Being Established (Luke 4:16-20)

- 1. God Confirms Your Call in the Presence of Familiarity (Luke 4:16)
 - a. Nazareth
 - b. Synagogue
 - 1) Childhood experience
 - 2) Previous experience from other locations

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2. Recognition of the Messenger's Purpose to Familiar People (Luke 4:17)
 - a. Confirmation through God's word (Isaiah 61:1-2)
3. Purpose of His Ministry (Luke 4:18-19)
 - a. Purpose 1 – Rooted with Power (The Spirit of the Lord is upon me)
 - 1) Matthew 3:16 – Holy Spirit descended like a dove
 - 2) Luke 4:14 – Jesus was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit
 - b. Purpose 2 – Rooted in Anointing
 - 1) Anoint means
 - c. Purpose 3 – Bring Good News to Poor
 - 1) Carry God's Word with speech
 - 2) Set up to speak at various venues
 - d. Purpose 4 – Release the Captives
 - 1) Broad audience who are in spiritual bondage (of various kinds)
 - e. Purpose 5 – Recover the Blind's Sight
 - 1) Teach and speak truth to those who have a veil around their faces
 - a) 2 Cor. 3:14 – but their minds were hardened. Indeed to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside.
 - f. Purpose 6 – Set Free the Oppressed
 - 1) Freedom requires a spoken word
 - 2) Freedom requires action after the word spoken by the oppressed
 - 3) Create opportunities for the oppressed to be free
 - 4) Discretion is needed
 - g. Purpose 7 – Proclaim God's Favor
 - 1) Whenever God does a work, His favor is in it
 - 2) Sending laborers is favor
 - 3) Freedom is favor

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4) Dismembering the kingdom of darkness is favor

IV. Conclusion/Implication

1. Corona – God will not waste this opportunity
2. People are hurting now – God will provide provision (His laborers)
3. God will open up the hearts of the people to return to the church
4. God will open the hearts of people to repent
5. Potential Messenger – God needs you