

Reference: MATTHEW 11:5

Church: GRACE Date: 01/03/10

## **The Gospel Preached to the Poor**

Purpose: To urge sinners to hear the Gospel and come to Christ for life

### **1. Introduction**

We have been looking at the "7 certain signs that Jesus is Christ"

The Savior from sin that God had promised

Four from Isaiah 35 (blind, deaf, lame, mute)

3 from Matthew 11 (lepers, dead, Gospel preached to poor)

Last week we looked at the raising of the dead

Saw how complete and final the condition of death is

Shows us in some way how God sees us if we are not believers

All the conditions Christ healed are contained in death

All visible pictures of sin (but it's far worse than the pictures)

All show us Jesus full of compassion, powerful to heal

Show us He is the Son of God, as He claimed

The only hope for sinful people

The only escape from the Hell that we all deserve

Challenge us to consider the testimony of the miracles & believe

This morning, the last of the 7 certain signs -

The poor have the Gospel preached to them

We will read from Matthew 11:1-6

We will look at 3 things:

- What is this Gospel that Messiah would preach?
- Who are they that will hear the Gospel?
- What will you do with Jesus' Gospel and Testimony?

### **2. What is this Gospel that Messiah would preach?**

See Isaiah 61:1-3

A prophecy of the very things Messiah would proclaim

Let's ask ourselves this question:

Did Christ preach what we see in this prophecy?

Did He do so in the way this passage says it would be preached?

Because if He did, then He fulfilled this sign that He is the Christ

### **2.1. News delivered in power of God's Spirit**

The preacher of this message would be anointed by the Lord

The Spirit of God would be poured out upon Him (61:1)

Worth noting that Messiah (Heb) and Christ (Gk) mean anointed

Installed by God to be the Prophet, Priest and King

God's Spirit was certainly poured out on Christ at His baptism

### **2.2. A message of good news for the afflicted!**

The preacher will be a word of "good news" (Gospel) - 61:1

What is the good news?

#### 2.2.1. A Gospel of Healing, Comfort and Joy!

##### **Healing for the brokenhearted 61:1**

The people Messiah would preach to would be brokenhearted

Grieving over their sin, finding no rest and no peace

But this good news from Messiah would be ointment to the soul -

Healing and relief for those oppressed by their sin

##### **Comfort for those who mourn 61:2-3**

A garland instead of ashes.

Ashes were placed on the head as a sign of great mourning

Now there is a garland, turban - celebration

a sign of righteousness and salvation see v10

The oil of joy instead of mourning

Shining, gladness, mirth, exultation

Oil was a sign of blessing, of joy

Poured out on the hearers of this Gospel

The mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting

The mantle is a garment, a wrap - a covering of praise

Instead of a dull, faded, heavy, dimly burning, fainting spirit

Christ's Gospel to them? A message of Healing, Comfort and Joy!

**Matthew 5:4** "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

**Matthew 11:28-29** "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.

**John 14:27** "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

**John 15:11** "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full.

What about you this morning?

You have offended such a God and it has cost you dear!

Are you heartbroken? Are you mourning over your sin?

The Gospel of Christ hasn't changed!

There is still comfort and joy for all who come to Him!

## 2.2.2. Liberty to Captives and Prisoners 61:1

The people who heard Messiah would be captives and slaves

Held fast in sin, captives of the "Strong Man armed"

Messiah was going to preach freedom and liberty from sin

Jesus' Gospel? Freedom from slavery to sin!

**John 8:31-36** So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." <sup>33</sup> They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free?'" <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. <sup>35</sup> "The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. <sup>36</sup> "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

Messiah would declare "The Favorable Year of the Lord" 61:2

The year of Jubilee in the OT - a year of release from slavery

A year of cancellation of debt.

Physical shadow in the OT had a spiritual reality in the Gospel

Jesus Gospel? The spiritual reality had come!

**Luke 4:17-21** And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, <sup>18</sup> "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, <sup>19</sup> TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD." <sup>20</sup> And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. <sup>21</sup> And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Cancellation of debt - release from slavery! Now is the day!

What about you this morning?

Without Christ, you are living in slavery to sin and Satan

A willing slave, but bound to serve them and unable to get free

And destined for a lost eternity away from God

Jesus Gospel has not changed! It is good news for you, too!

Jesus can release you from your bondage! How?

By defeating Satan

## 2.2.3. Defeat for the Enemies of God

Messiah would also declare "The Day of Vengeance of our God"

A time when all God's enemies would be put to flight

Victory would be sealed

Christ declared this Day in His ministry

**Matthew 12:29** "Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong *man*? And then he will plunder his house.

**John 12:31-32** "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. <sup>32</sup> "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself."

And then He brought about the defeat through His cross

**Colossians 2:15** When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

This is what He did to purchase salvation for His people!

## 2.2.4. A future and a purpose 61:3

Those who truly hear will be called "oaks of righteousness"

"A planting of the Lord" - permanence and fruitfulness

And the result? The glory of God

Does the Gospel of Christ match up with the Gospel of Messiah?

His Gospel contained all these facets

He specifically identified with this passage in Nazareth

## 3. Who are they that would hear this Gospel?

The passage makes this very clear:

**"The afflicted" v1 (poor, meek, humble).**

Those who are poor in spirit - recognize their bankruptcy - sin

**"The brokenhearted" v1**

Those who are in anguish because of their sin

Because it offends a gracious, loving but just God

**"Captives" - v1 (those taken away)****"Prisoners" - v1 (those bound up with cords)**

Those who understand and feel their bondage to sin and Satan  
 That these have bound them and carried them away, held fast  
 Who sense there is no escape that they can engineer  
**Those who mourn v2, v3 (over calamity, death)**  
 Those who understand the results of sin in their own lives  
 And sin in the creation - DEATH  
 And mourn and grieve over their sins

These are the people who **heard** the Gospel in Jesus' day  
 Not just the words impinging on their ear drums  
 But the acceptance of their situation caused by sin  
 Their realization that only Jesus could help  
 Those we have seen Jesus heal all came to Him with this spirit  
 Humble, brokenhearted, mourning, sensing their bondage  
 And they heard this Gospel - healing, comfort, liberty, joy  
 They trusted Jesus, and He broke the power of sin in their lives  
 He died in their place on the cross  
 He lived in obedience to the Law in their place  
 Their broken hearts were bound up  
 The cords that bound them were broken and they were set free  
 Their mourning over sin was turned to rejoicing  
 Because they found they were no longer dead in sins but ALIVE!

Who will hear this Gospel today? It is the same people!  
 The poor in spirit - afflicted by sin - is that you?  
 The broken hearted - grieving over sin - is that you?  
 Those who feel the cords of sin binding them - do you?  
 Who realize sin has carried them far from God - do you?  
 Those who mourn over sin and the death it has produced - you?

All these, coming to Jesus in this spirit  
 Loathing their sins and wanting to be rid of them  
 Seeing that Jesus is the only Savior and trusting Him completely  
 The Great Physician will bind up their broken hearts  
 He will set them free from their bondage to sin

He will comfort those who mourn and give them joy and gladness  
**Matthew 5:4** "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

He will give them an inheritance in heaven

**Matthew 5:3** "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Will that be you this morning?

Will you **hear** this Gospel and run to Jesus for healing, salvation?

**4. What will you do with Jesus' testimony?**

For the last time in this series, let me ask you these questions.

Do you see why Jesus pointed to this Gospel preaching as a sign?

Do you see that He was indeed anointed by God to preach this?

That His message coincided exactly with the prophecy of Isaiah 700 years previously!

A message of healing, comfort, liberty, hope

A message confirmed by all the miraculous healings Jesus did

Is this Jesus the One Whom God sent as Savior? Is He Messiah?

- This One who with a word healed the blind, the deaf, the lame, the mute, the lepers
- Who raised to life those who were dead and preached good news to the poor in spirit

Is He the One? If so, shouldn't you trust Him to be your Savior?

Will you come to Him and have Him as your Savior?

Or will you take offense at Him and look for someone else?

Will you listen to the pride that tells you you don't need Him?

Where will you go if not to Jesus?

Who will set you free from your sins?

Who will heal and comfort you if not Him?

Who will grant you a place in heaven if not Him?

Isn't He good enough for you? What more do you need?

Will you, like the Pharisees, demand a sign, after all He did?

Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing Luke 4:17-18

The good news is declared to you in the name of Jesus

He is the promised Savior - come to Him now!