

WORD OF HOPE 96

Hymn 404 -The Spirit is in my heart

Luke 4:14-21

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

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

The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

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, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: '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, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' 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. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

New International Version (NIV)

Reflection

I had a friend who used to dance so well at parties but could not do so any other time. I asked her why she only danced so well at parties and she said she dances well when she is under the influence of alcohol and cannot dance when she was sober! I thought of my friend as I was reading this week's text from Luke. Jesus could have not done his ministry if he was not fulfilled with the Spirit from God. The bible says Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit when he commenced his ministry which makes sense because Jesus' ministry was spiritual than physical. Jesus' ministry was a disappointment to most Jews because they expected him to be a physical liberator to liberate them from the Roman oppression. They had lived many years in bondage and most people had built hopes on physical emancipation. They expected Jesus to flex his muscles and defeat the Roman governance and restore Israel to its original physical shape. This is why we hear the Luke 24:13-35 the two man on the road to Emmaus expressing their disappointment as their hope of an earthly King to save

them was shuttered. They did not realise that Jesus' ministry was spiritual rather than physical. Jesus' mission was to restore the spiritual aspect of the Israelites who had wandered far away from God. Jesus came to bring the good news to the poor, to release the captives and set them free and to give sight to the blind (Isaiah 61:19). I suppose when Isaiah prophesied at that time people chose to interpret the text according to their situation. The ministry of Jesus was a ministry of reconciliation; to reconcile us to God. Jesus' ministry was to set us free from the bondage of the devil and enable us to be called the children of the Kingdom. Jesus was filled with the Spirit so that he may communicate things of the spirit hence many could not understand his language. Jesus' language was about the things of heaven and not the things of this earth. He came to give us spiritual vision so that we may see the good things awaiting us at the end of this life. Jesus spoke with boldness and courage when preaching the good news because his ministry was over and above what the physical eye can see. Jesus is God demonstrating His love for humanity. The coming of the Messiah was to give us hope for eternal life which is more important than physical liberation. In Jesus God knew that physical liberation would not bring everlasting joy to His people hence the spiritual liberation. Therefore, Jesus' ministry was to bring hope, love, joy and forgiveness. It brought grace and truth which the law could not give to

the gentiles but condemned them. Jesus' ministry was about justice, fairness and healing to all. It is a ministry of love that encourages us to love one another as he has loved us. A ministry that sees no difference in anyone, a ministry that unites us all under the name of God and a ministry that sets us apart from those who do not believe. We are set apart by the blood that was shed on the cross, precious blood of the lamb. Rejoice and know that there is power in the blood of the Jesus. Hallelujah! 🙏🙏🙏

Prayer

We thank you Lord for the everlasting love that you have shown us through Jesus Christ our saviour. Love that freed us from bondage, love that gave us spiritual vision, love that gave us healing and love that unites us in your name. Teach us Lord thy way so that we may continue to walk in it and do your will. May our ways God fulfil your will and our purpose in your Kingdom and we say this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen 🙏🙏🙏

*Prepared by **Rev Mary Sachikonye Methodist Minister for (Mile Cross, Costessey, Trinity Thorpe Marriott and Hosford) for a time as this. We are a church without walls. We should therefore, continue to proclaim the good news. I will be sending **Word of Hope** every week so that we may continue to nourish our spirits and continue to live in HOPE!***