

Hitting the Mark- Proclaim Jesus

Sermon Notes

May 21, 2017

Jesus' Primary Objective. **Luke 4:14-21**

Context: Jesus' pattern of public worship was weekly. He was likely allowed to read and teach as what was normal pattern of invitation to a visiting rabbi as part of a Hebrew service. E.C. They were likely curious if he saw himself as the messiah since they had heard that he had wowed others by his teaching at other synagogues. However, they thought they really knew Jesus because this was his hometown. (16)

By the power of the Holy Spirit...

- Proclaim good news to the poor.
- Proclaim freedom to the prisoner.
- Proclaim sight for the blind.
- Proclaim freedom for the oppressed.

Pattern observed in Jesus' ministry and the disciples' ministry.

1. Proclaim.
2. If rejected move on. **Luke 4:24-29; Luke 10:8-11**

Acts 13:46 *"Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: 'We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles.'"*

Jesus gives us the same mission. **Luke 10:1-3, 16**

- The harvest is all around us.
- Few take the mission on. (2a)
- There are adversaries. (3)
- Jesus aligns himself with those who take on the mission. (16)

Jesus' charge to those who go on mission with him. Luke 12:4-9, 11

- He had modeled how to proclaim in so many forms now he sends them to do the same.
- Fear the loving God and not the malicious and limited man. (4)
- Fear not what you will say because the Holy Spirit is with you just as he was with Jesus. (11)

God's plan was to proclaim the good news. Luke 24:44-49

- The Old Testament prophesied to this. (44)
- The proclamation was about the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name to all people. (47)
- We are to testify to this.
- We need the Holy Spirit to do so. (49)

Acts 1:8 *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

By the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus did indeed give good news to the poor, give the prisoner freedom, help the blind to see, and to release the oppressed. By that same Spirit so can we!

Take Aways

1. Jesus modeled a life that gave hope, but it was never in silence. He proclaimed with words too! So should we.
2. There will be challenge in hardship, but we need not despair or fear for God is with us.
3. We simply need to go do it by the power of the Holy Spirit who empowers us and changes others.

Benediction: **Romans 10:9-13**

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Group Discussion Guide (Ric Joline)

5/21/17

Texts: **Luke 4:14-21 (Jesus' Primary Objective: Proclamation);**
Luke 4:24-29, 10:8-11, Acts 13:46 (Pattern Observed: Move on when rejected)
Luke 10:1-3, 16 (Pattern Modeled-Jesus gives us the same mission)
Luke 12:4-9, 11 (Pattern Explained)
Luke 24:44-49 (Pattern Prophesied and reviewed)

Jesus' public life is for our instruction and here represents the final major Mark of a Disciple in our series: Proclaiming the Gospel. There are some great "tips" for every follower of Jesus to remember here and discussing them only serves to encourage and empower all of us to fulfill the ultimate purpose of God while we are here on this earth. The following questions will help guide your discussion to help your group to personalize and apply the truth of God's Word in the days ahead. ***(Feel free to limit the number/scope of questions to suit your needs.)***

1. Talk about Jesus' pattern of weekly public worship. How has our church culture changed in the past decade with regard to American worship habits? What is yours? How much time should we give to the church on a weekly basis? What does **Hebrews 10:10** have to add to this discussion?
2. Our proclamation of the gospel message is always to be in the power of the Spirit. This is Jesus' model. What specifically, should we be doing regularly to ensure our conversations with others are empowered in such a way?
3. According to our text (**Luke 4:14-21**) there are specific messages Jesus proclaimed in the Spirit's power (good news to the poor, freedom to the prisoner, sight for the blind, freedom for the oppressed). Taken in a physical and spiritual context, talk about why these messages were important in that day but especially important in our day today. Then ask yourself how you are doing in light of the kinds of messages you are proclaiming with your life?
4. There is no question that the *fear of rejection* is a powerful barrier in our desire to proclaim the gospel. I remember sharing quite a number of invitations with some neighbors to come to church and getting turned down every single time. There was clearly no interest—zero, zip, nada!! Discuss how the response of Paul and Barnabus in Acts 13:46 frees us from fear of rejection. (Don't fear Man, fear God--LU 12:4)
5. Confident proclamation seems to be the theme of the final section of Tony's teaching this morning. Discuss specific reasons (from our texts) why we need not fear at all in following Jesus' pattern by continuing to proclaim. (**Acts 13:46**) (**Luke 10:1-4**)
6. How could a small group/Life Group be used to proclaim the gospel?
7. **Luke 12:11** gives us a hint of what might be coming for American Christians. Things in America are changing, ideologically, politically and morally. Persecution of Christians world-wide is also up a lot from previous generations. Small and Life Groups are essential for mutual support. Discuss the growing persecution of Americans and how Jesus' words affect what our response should be.
8. What specifically should our proclamation be about? Luke 24:44-49. How should we prepare ourselves to proclaim exactly what Jesus wants us to? How should I begin my preparation? (life, deeds, words spoken, I need to care/have a heart broken by God for my friends who don't know Him)

A final story. Last evening while returning from my youngest daughter's graduation, my car broke down and I found myself alone at a local restaurant. This is not the way I wanted this day of celebration to end. However, while waiting on AAA to pick up my car, I asked permission to wait inside the restaurant. While I was there, I was able to share with a man who "just began a conversation with me". He was there for "take out". God wants us to take advantage of every situation and clearly, the Spirit was saying to me,

“tell this guy about the hope you have”!! If we are open and not fearful, the Spirit wants to do amazing things!! (1 CO 3:6,7)