



Sermon Series: It's All About Jesus

To be used with Session 1: The Mission of Jesus

Sermon Title Possibilities: What Jesus Declares

Scripture: Luke 4:14-21

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study "It's All About Jesus," this sermon shows how Jesus had a ministry of declaration that was done with power and purpose, which was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. Jesus didn't just come to bring physical health, psychological wholeness, or social justice. The declaration of Jesus is the message of salvation through faith in Him. This is good news for all people, as such, the Church should not only share this good news, but also share in it.

Introduction: There are several passages that teach that Jesus has a ministry of declaration, and that what He was declaring was good news for all people (Matt. 4:17,23; 9:38; 12:18; Mark 1:14,38; Luke 4:19,23,43; 8:1; 16:16; I. Pet. 3:19; 4:6; Heb. 2:3). These passages teach us that He came proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom of God and heaven, justice to the Gentiles, and the favorable year of the Lord. They also teach us that teaching and preaching was a central part of His mission while here on earth. Jesus had a ministry of declaration. Today, we will allow the text to teach us about **The Power of His Ministry, The Purpose of His Ministry, and The Predictions of His Ministry.**

1. The Power of His Ministry (v. 14)

Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matt. 1:18-21). He was filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:1). Jesus was led, prepared, and victorious over the devil by the Spirit (Matt. 4:1-11). And He ministered in the power of the Holy Spirit. His messages had so much force and fruit because He was functioning totally in the power of the Holy Spirit (John 3:31-36). The lesson for us is that we ought to seek to walk, worship, witness, work, and do spiritual warfare in the power of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:16-17; John 4:23-24; Acts 1:8; Eph. 6:10-11).

2. The Purpose of His Ministry (v. 16-19)

In these verses we find the anointing of Jesus and the assignment of Jesus. Jesus does what the average Jew would do and goes to the synagogue on the day of worship. He stands to

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read, and the scroll of Isaiah is handed to Him. He reads from Isaiah 61:1-2. This prophecy points to the Messiah, but in this text, it is being proclaimed by the Messiah. Jesus reiterates what we talked about in the first point—namely that He is anointed by and filled with the Holy Spirit. Then, He shows us the assignment on His life from the Heavenly. Jesus was assigned to preach the good news. His preaching was to be to the poor, about the freedom of captives, the recovery of sight for the spiritually blind, the oppressed being set free, and the freedom for all to accept the Lord by faith. As Jesus followers, we must declare these same things to those who are lost (Rom. 10:1-17). His purpose has become our purpose, because he has sent us as He was sent (John 20:21).

3. The Predictions of His Ministry (v. 20-21)

Many Old Testament scholars suggest that there are more than 300 prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament—several of which He has already fulfilled. The fact that He would be born in Bethlehem, preceded by a Messenger, would enter Jerusalem on a donkey, be betrayed by a friend, sold for thirty pieces of silver, born of a virgin, hated without a cause, silent before His accusers, executed like a thief, and would be raised from the dead were all fulfilled by Jesus. The point the passage makes is that Jesus was fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 61:1-2 right before the eyes of those gathered in that synagogue. He came to proclaim and produce salvation for all who would believe in Him. The point I want to make in the sermon is that the ministry of Jesus is worthy of believing and modeling because it was based on God's Word. We should find encouragement, strength, and boldness to share the gospel because we know that it is rooted in Scripture and was declared by Jesus.

Conclusion: Many people read and share what is in the newspaper every day—although they know it is not 100% true. Sadly, some Christians believe that what the Bible says is 100% true, yet they don't read and share it daily. Let's make a commitment to change that today. Let's make the commitment to walk in the power of Jesus' ministry, carry-out the purpose of Jesus' ministry, and make known the predictions of Jesus' ministry.

Author Bio

Reginald D. Taylor is a graduate of Crichton College, Union University, Capital Seminary, and is currently pursuing the Ph.D. degree at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is the senior Pastor of The Rock Church and Assistant Professor/Director of Urban Theological Studies at MCUTS @ Union University in Memphis TN. He and his wife Dr. Tarra R. Taylor has one son—Reginald D. Taylor II—and three grandchildren Micah, Yara, and Aviyah.

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