

**Dig Deeper / Luke 4:14-30 and Isaiah 61:1-6**  
**Otisville Church of Christ / January 6-12, 2013**

*Teaching*

This scene details the beginning of Jesus' public ministry (as Luke presents it). After recording Jesus' baptism in chapter 3 and covering his wilderness temptation in the beginning of chapter 4, Luke shows Jesus going to the synagogue in Nazareth, where he had been raised. Luke reminds us that this was Jesus' custom. His point is to portray Jesus as a faithful Jew, especially because of what comes next.

Jesus has a scroll given to him. He does not take it for himself. It is given to him so that when he finds the place written in Isaiah that speaks about him, no one can say he fabricated it. He reads from a prophecy in Isaiah about the Servant, the one who was prophesied about that would save and rescue God's people by turning them back to the Lord.

There are several things to note in this passage: the Servant has the Spirit of the Lord upon him because he has been anointed by God; his purpose is to proclaim good news (the gospel) to the poor; and his proclamation will bring about the Lord's favor. These things are fulfilled in Jesus. He is the promised Servant, the promised "anointed one." This is why Jesus can say, "Today this Scripture [i.e., this prophecy] has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Yet, as often happens when people are confronted with the truth and reality of God, there is resistance. The people question Jesus. So Jesus challenges them with scripture, but in a way that creates more tension. He reminds them that in the time of Elijah and Elisha, the great prophets, it was the Gentiles (the non-Jews) who were most receptive to the Lord. This, of course, infuriates the people because they hear the truth of their rejection of God in Jesus' words. So they try to throw him of a cliff. But Jesus walked away.

*Reflection Questions*

1. Look at the entire Scripture Jesus read from in Isaiah 61 (the whole chapter).  
What other things do you find in that passage that speak about Jesus' ministry?
2. How was the Scripture from Isaiah fulfilled?
3. Why did the people come to be angry with Jesus?
4. What two examples did Jesus give to remind the people of how it was the Gentiles who were more receptive to God's message?
5. How should this have challenged them?
6. What do you learn from this passage about the gospel?
7. How faithful are you to the Lord?