

Luke 4:14 - 44 (NASB) ¹⁴And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district. ¹⁵And He began teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all.

- ***The events recorded in John 1:19-4:45 took place at this time, but Matthew, Mark, and Luke did not record them. They moved right into the Lord's ministry in Galilee, and Luke alone reports His visit to His hometown of Nazareth.***

¹⁶And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read.

- ***It was Jesus' custom to attend public worship, a custom we should imitate today (Heb. 10:24-25). He could have argued that the "religious system" was corrupt, or that He didn't need the instruction; but instead, He made His way to church on the Sabbath.***

¹⁷And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written,

- ***A typical synagogue service opened with an invocation for God's blessing and then the recitation of the traditional Hebrew confession of faith (see Deut. 6:4-9; 11:13-21). This was followed by prayer and the prescribed readings from the Law and from the Prophets, with the reader paraphrasing the Hebrew Scriptures in Aramaic.***
- ***This was followed by a brief sermon given by one of the men of the congregation or perhaps by a visiting rabbi (see Acts 13:14-16). If a priest was present, the service closed with a benediction. Otherwise, one of the laymen prayed and the meeting was dismissed.***

¹⁸ "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,

¹⁹ TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."

- ***Jesus was asked to read the Scripture text and to give the sermon. The passage He read included Isaiah 61:1-2, and He selected it for His "text." The Jewish rabbis interpreted this passage to refer to the Messiah. Jesus had come to usher in the "acceptable year of the Lord."***
- ***The "Year of Jubilee" described in Leviticus 25. Every seventh year was a "Sabbatical year" for the nation, when the land was allowed to rest; and every fiftieth year (after seven Sabbaticals) was set apart as the "Year of Jubilee." The main purpose of this special year was the balancing of the economic system: slaves were set free and returned to their families, property that was sold reverted to the original owners, and all debts were canceled. The land lay fallow as man and beast rested and rejoiced in the Lord.***

²⁰And 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. ²¹And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

²²And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, "Is this not Joseph's son?"

²³And He said to them, "No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.'"

- **Jesus applied all of this to His own ministry, not in a political/economic sense, but in a spiritual sense. He brought Good News of salvation to sinners and healing to brokenhearted and rejected people. He had delivered many from blindness and from bondage to demons and disease. It was a spiritual “Year of Jubilee” for Israel!**

²⁴And He said, “Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown. ²⁵“But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land; ²⁶and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, *in the land* of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. ²⁷“And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.”

²⁸And all *the people* in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things; ²⁹and they got up and drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff. ³⁰But passing through their midst, He went His way.

- **Elijah bypassed all Jewish widows and helped a Gentile widow in Sidon (1 Kings 17:8-16), Elisha healed a Gentile leper from Syria (2 Kings 5:1-15). Jesus’ message of grace was rejected by Jews and they would not repent.**

³¹And He came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and He was teaching them on the Sabbath;

³²and they were amazed at His teaching, for His message was with authority.

³³In the synagogue there was a man possessed by the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice,

³⁴“Let us alone! What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”

³⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him down in the midst of *the people*, he came out of him without doing him any harm.

³⁶And amazement came upon them all, and they *began* talking with one another saying, “What is this message? For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits and they come out.”

³⁷And the report about Him was spreading into every locality in the surrounding district.

³⁸Then He got up and *left* the synagogue, and entered Simon’s home. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Him to help her.

³⁹And standing over her, He rebuked the fever, and it left her; and she immediately got up and waited on them. ⁴⁰While the sun was setting, all those who had any *who were* sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and laying His hands on each one of them, He was healing them.

⁴¹Demons also were coming out of many, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But rebuking them, He would not allow them to speak, because they knew Him to be the Christ.

⁴²When day came, Jesus left and went to a secluded place; and the crowds were searching for Him, and came to Him and tried to keep Him from going away from them.

⁴³But He said to them, “I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose.”

⁴⁴So He kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Temptation review:

Satan now gets into the Scripture quoting act, and he does it with his usual deceit. He quotes Psalm 91:11, but leaves out the last phrase: “In all your ways.” All God’s ways certainly would not include self-seeking pride. God does send help and protection through “guardian” angels (Job 1:10; 2 Kgs 6:8–17; Ps 34:7; Jude 9).

CORRECT: Psalms 91:11 (NASB)_¹¹ For He will give His angels charge concerning you, **To guard you in all your ways.**

incorrect: Luke 4:10 - 11 (NASB) ¹⁰for it is written, ‘HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU TO GUARD YOU,’¹¹and, ‘ON *their* HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.’”

Correct: Genesis 2:16 - 17 (NASB) ¹⁶The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

¹⁷but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

Incorrect: Genesis 3:1 - 5 (NASB) ²The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; ³but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" ⁴The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! ⁵"For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Temptation is Satan's weapon to defeat us, but it's also God's tool to build us

James 1:2 - 4 (KJV) ²My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

⁴But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 1:13 - 14 (KJV) ¹³Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

¹⁴But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Genesis 50:20 ²⁰But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive.

2 Corinthians 2:11 (NASB) ¹¹so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

- Knowing and obeying God's Word is an effective weapon against temptation, the only "offensive" weapon provided in the Christian's "armor" (Eph. 6:17).

Ephesians 6:17 (NASB) ¹⁷And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

- Quoting Scripture will send Satan running (James 4:7). The Word of God is the key to conquering the tempter.

Mark alongside Matthew tells us that angels came and ministered to Jesus.

Monday Morning Moment

***"With the world if you see it you will believe it...
But with God if we believe we will see!"***

JOHN 20:29 (NASB) ²⁹JESUS SAID* TO HIM, "BECAUSE YOU HAVE SEEN ME, HAVE YOU BELIEVED? BLESSED ARE THEY WHO DID NOT SEE, AND YET BELIEVED."