

hello everyone. here is today's sermon and it is still today!!! Hope you are having a good month. May God bless you and yours!
Pastor Don

Ministry" Jan. 27, 2013 Luke 4:14-21 "Jesus Begins His

Delivering a speech at a banquet on the night of his arrival in a large city, a visiting minister told several anecdotes he expected to repeat at meetings the next day.

Because he wanted to use the jokes again, he requested the reporters to omit them from any accounts they might turn in to their newspapers. A cub reporter, in commenting on the speech, ended his piece with the following: "The minister told a number of stories that cannot be published."

3 Pastors in the south were having lunch in a diner. One said "Ya know, since summer started I've been having trouble with bats in my loft and attic at church. I've tried everything--noise, spray, cats--nothing seems to scare them away. The 2nd one said "Yea, me too. I've got hundreds living in my belfry and in the narthex attic. I've even had the place fumigated, and they won't go away." The third said, "I baptized all mine, and made them members of the church... haven't seen one since!!!"

A certain elderly gentleman walked to church every Sunday. He was totally deaf; unable to hear the singing or the sermon. A scoffer asked him why he bothered. He replied I want my neighbors to know whose side I'm on.

A man was looking for the right church for him. He had made many visits to many different churches. One Sunday he entered a church just as the pastor said we have left undone those things which we ought to have done and the congregation responded with and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. The man slipped into a pew and said to himself I have found my church at last; these people are just like me.

If absence makes the heart grow fonder, then some people must really love church!

A.L. Todd said the great task of the church is not only to get sinners into heaven, but also to get the saints out of bed.

Legend has it that a village in Southern Europe built a church in the 16th century called the house of many lamps. The only lighting built into the building was a receptacle for the lamp people brought with them when they attended services. As the people gathered for Sunday night worship, the room would brighten. It was the regular presence of the believers that lit up the church. Does the Light of Jesus shine through us enough to light the room where we are?

Each of us has ministry. Our ministry starts with our being fed. Once we are full, then we need to share what we have with others. Sunday morning worship feeds us and starts our week off correctly. Did we come to church this morning to worship and get filled? Is remembering the Sabbath and keeping it holy important to us? It was to Jesus. He worshipped every Sabbath day. Do we follow His example? Are we striving to be Christ-like? As we contemplate this question, let us look to our Lord in prayer. Would you pray with me as we begin this morning's message? (pray)

Luke says then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee. Where had He been? Jesus was in the wilderness praying and fasting for 40 days. Then He was tempted by the Devil. Jesus overcame each temptation and was now back home in Nazareth, the town in which He grew up. Luke tells us the news of Him went throughout the entire region. News of Him spread throughout the region, even though they had no phones, computers or news media. How did the word spread; by word of mouth. People were talking about Him. Do we talk about Jesus? Do we tell of His love, mercy and miracles? Word of mouth truly is the best form of advertisement. Are we good advertisements for Jesus?

This is the 1st time Jesus has been to Nazareth since His baptism. He taught in the synagogues and was glorified by all. He continued His custom of being in the synagogue, especially on the Sabbath day. It is important that all Christians be in church on the Sabbath day. For Jesus the Sabbath day was Saturday. That was the Day that God rested from all His work. Why did God rest, was He tired? No! He was setting an example for us to follow. People need a Sabbath day each week. A person cannot work 7 days a week for very long before they begin to get worn out. God knows what He is doing; we can trust Him. He not only set the example of resting one day a week, He made it a law. The 4th commandment, which can be found in Exodus 20:8-11 says "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord

Blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it."

Sunday is the Christian Sabbath day. So how did the Sabbath day change? Why do the Jews still call Saturday the Sabbath and the Christians call Sunday the Sabbath? We worship on Sunday because that is the day Jesus arose from the dead. Christianity is not a religion; it is a relationship with a living savior. Jesus is alive! His resurrection is the crux of our faith. It what sets Christianity apart from other faiths; our leader is alive! Buddha, Confucius, and Mohammed are all dead. Jesus is alive!!! The resurrection proves that God accepted the blood of Christ as atonement for our sins. Each Sunday is a mini

Easter. We come to praise and worship our Lord and savor; to learn more about Him, and to fellowship with other believers. We come to worship the one true living God, Jehovah; the one who created heaven and earth and everything in them in 6 days and rested on the 7th. It is very important to our Christian walk that we remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Hebrews 10:25 says "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, &so much the more as you see the Day approaching." Regular worship is vital to our Christian walk. It strengthens us, unites us, educates us, challenges us and enables us to take on the coming week. Simply going to church however does not make one a Christian. By the same token, not going to church does not mean that one is not a Christian. Christianity is based on faith, it is what we believe. What we believe determines how we live. There are certain things Christians are expected to do and one of them is attend church on Sunday. There are times though when we can't go to worship aren't there?

Sometimes we get sick or have to work or we have something important to do. That is why it is nice to live in America where we are free to worship when and where we want; where we have church on TV and radio and web sites. America knows it is our right to have freedom of religion; we are free to choose any form of worship we want. We need to make sure we utilize this privilege while it still exists. I'm glad to be in God's house this morning, how about you?

Jesus stood up to read the scripture. It was customary for the teacher to stand respectfully to read scripture and to sit humbly to teach about it. He was handed the book of Isaiah. He opened it to 61:1-2 and read them. Then He shut the book and sat down declaring that today, this scripture had been fulfilled; a very bold statement in the eyes of His fellow Nazarenes. Vs.22 tells us that they saw Him simply as the son of Joseph the carpenter. They new Him, or so they thought. They knew His family and His business. How could He possibly say that today the scripture concerning the Messiah was fulfilled? They understood exactly what Jesus was saying; He was claiming to be the Messiah. They understood, they just didn't believe. Do we believe that Jesus is the Messiah? Do we believe He is alive today?

The Spirit of the Lord God came upon Jesus in verse 1 of chapter 4. It says He was filled with the Holy Spirit. Verse 14 says He returned in the power of the Holy Spirit. Throughout the Old Testament, God would send His spirit upon different people at different times. Today Christians get the Holy Spirit the minute we receive Christ.

Do we follow His leading? Do we obey His instructions?

The word Messiah means anointed one. Being anointed symbolized an appointment to an office. King's and High priests were anointed. The Messiah would be both. He will rule for all eternity and He is our High Priest, He made the sacrifice for our sins to make us right before God.

Jesus was appointed to preach the gospel to the poor. What is the gospel? The good news of Jesus Christ; that he died for the sins of all mankind. Jesus died for every sin of every person. There is no sin which can not be forgiven through the blood of Christ. In him and in Him alone we find true forgiveness and everlasting life. Jesus told us in John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the father except through me." Having our sins forgiven truly is good news. Isaiah 61:1 uses the word good tidings. The angel said at Jesus' birth to fear not for he brought good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. Christians today are to bear these same good tidings of great joy.

Do we share the good news of Jesus Christ?

Poor also means humble. Many people were humbly looking for the Messiah. Here he is; one of their own; with all the proofs he needs. But most did not believe. Jesus said he was sent to heal the brokenhearted. Jesus did lots of healings. He made the lame walk, the mute talk, the deaf hear, the blind see, he healed lepers and even raised the dead, yet some still refused to believe. Brokenhearted indicates people who confidently still hoped in God despite their circumstances. Do we still trust God no matter what others say? No matter what are circumstances are?

Jesus proclaimed liberty to the captives. People were being held captive by sin. Today people still are. Lost people are slaves to sin. Jesus came to free them from this bondage. Acts 2:38 "Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sin; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 10:43 tells us that whoever believes in him will receive remission of sins. Romans 10:13 "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Getting saved not only frees us from being a slave to sin, but it helps us not to be brokenhearted any more. We are now a child of the King with eternal life in heaven. Are we spreading this good news? Can people see Christ in our lives? We who have been liberated by Christ need to be his witnesses. Are we?

Jesus opened up the eyes of the blind; both spiritually and physically. For Him healing a physically blind person was easy. He had trouble with those who were spiritually blind. The old saying that there is none so blind as him who will not see is very true. The people of Nazareth were spiritually blind. Just like most of the Pharisees and lots of people today. In Luke 1:79 Zacharias prophesies that the Messiah will "give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death." By opening the eyes of the blind Jesus gives liberty to the oppressed. Once we see our sin and repent of it, we are free to serve God with our whole heart. Israel had a mission; to bring other nations to God. Genesis 12:3 "I will bless those that bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Israel was supposed to be a different nation, a nation who followed God. They did not have a king because God was their King. Their differences were to bring people to God. They were to tell others about their God. But they did not. They wanted to be like other nations, so God gave them a king. Then they were like everybody else. Today Christians need to be different than the world. We are supposed to invite people to Christ; both with our lifestyle and our words. It is easy to say the right words but does our walk match our talk? Do we show people Christ with our lives? Our life is the only bible some people will ever read; what is our life telling them?

Jesus proclaimed the acceptable year of the Lord. This is an allusion to the year of the jubilee. Every 50th year was the year of the jubilee. All debts were forgiven; slaves were freed; and land was returned to its original family. It gave everyone a fresh start. That is what Jesus did by dieing for our sins; He gives us a fresh start. Our sins are forgiven and we have a new chance to love, serve and worship Him.

Then Jesus shut the book and sat down, but He did not finish all of verse 2. The 2nd half of Isaiah 61:2 "And the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn." Jesus did not read this half of the verse because it has to do with His 2nd coming, not His first. He came the 1st time as the suffering servant, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. But He is coming back again someday. This time He will be the conquering King. This time people will feel His vengeance. Are we ready? Are we helping others get ready? Do we believe? Or are we like the Nazarenes and ask is this not Joseph the carpenters son? Who do we say that Jesus is? Christians know who Jesus is. Are we good ambassadors for Christ? Is the spirit of the Lord upon us? Are we doing ministry for Christ? Amen, let's pray.