

Sunday 8th March 2026

Start to Finish: Jesus' Mission Statement

Luke 4:14-21

Welcome

- Can you remember your first day at school or your first day at a new job? What was it like?
- Can you remember your last day at school? If you are now retired – can you remember your last day at work? How different was it to your first day at work?

Word

Read Luke 4:14-17

1. After Jesus had finished 40 days in the wilderness, he returned to Galilee, how did Jesus return (v14) and how does that follow on from the story about his baptism by John?
2. Read verse 16. What did Jesus do in Nazareth? What does this tell us about his childhood? Why do you think he began his ministry in this place and in this way?
3. Did Jesus need to go to the synagogue for his own spiritual growth? Can you see parallels here with Jesus wanting to be baptised by John? Is this a good thing for Jesus to do?

By asking John to baptise him he was identifying with everyone else who had been baptised – he was demonstrating his humanity (we talked about this a few weeks ago). By worshipping in the synagogue he is again doing what others do, identifying with others, demonstrating his humanity.

4. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. Do we ever feel like not going to Church? What can we do to be more motivated to attend? Is there anything you can do to 'get more out of church'? (for those of you who are unable to physically attend but participate online – the same applies – how can you get 'more out of church?')
5. Do you attend church just to 'receive'? What can you do to ensure that you're not just 'receiving' at church but 'giving'?

Jesus' Mission Statement

Read Luke 4: 18-19:

*"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."*

6. What do you think the good news is? (v18 see also 3:18)
7. Who are the poor? (see Matthew 5:3 and Luke 7:22)
8. Who are the prisoners? (see John 8:32 and John 8:36)
9. Who are the blind? (see Acts 26:16-18)
10. Who are the oppressed? (see Hebrews 2:14,15)
11. After reading all these verses about the poor, the prisoners, the blind and the oppressed – who are these people in today's world? When do you come into contact with the poor, the prisoners, the blind and the oppressed?

Read Luke 4: 20-21

12. What did Jesus do and say after reading this scripture?
13. What is Jesus saying about himself, his relationship to Scripture and his relationship with God the Father and the Holy Spirit by saying what he said in v 21?
14. This incident happened in Nazareth – Jesus’ hometown. If you had grown up with Jesus – what would you have thought about him making these claims?
15. Is it harder to live out your faith at home (or with people that know you well) than it is outside of the home? Why or why not?
16. Read Luke 7:18-23. What is familiar about these words? What is Jesus saying here?
17. How well is today’s church fulfilling the mission of Jesus? What parts of it do we as a church have to work at?
18. Discuss practical action (for you as an individual and as a church) that would demonstrate the fulfilment of Luke 4:18,19 through you. Make plans to actually do it!

Read Luke 4:22-30

19. How did the people respond initially to what Jesus said (v 22), that did this lead to in verse 28?
20. What is the story of the widow of Zarephath? (see 1 Kings 17:7-16)? What did Jesus mean by quoting this story?
21. What was the story of Naaman (see 2 Kings 5)? How was he different to the lepers in Israel?
22. How did both the widow and Naaman exhibit faith? Did they have anything else in common?
23. Why were the people in the synagogue furiously angry when Jesus told these stories from the Old Testament?

Optional Extra:

24. Claiming to be the person who fulfilled the Isaiah Scripture was just one of the shocking claims Jesus said about himself. If you have time take a look at some others from John's gospel:

John 5:18-19

John 5:24-25

John 6:35-40

John 7:37-39

John 8:12

John 8:42,51,58

How do statements like this explain why the authorities wanted him dead?

25. Discuss some of the ways in which Jesus fulfilled his manifesto, using examples from the gospels. See how many you can think of?

Worship & Witness

- Ask God to help you be more motivated when you attend church
- Commit to doing what you can to 'get more out of church'
- Commit to 'giving' what you can in church
- Commit to specific actions to fulfil Jesus' mission

Prayer pointers:

- Pray specifically for people we know who may be poor, imprisoned, blind or oppressed
- Pray for world situations where people are poor, imprisoned, blind or oppressed.