

Luke 4:16-21 (ESV)

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Have you ever felt oppressed by something in your life? Have you ever felt oppressed by what people thought of you? Maybe you have been oppressed by feeling you have to compare yourself to others. Others may have felt oppressed by addiction or loneliness. If you have not felt oppression in your life, chances are you will at some point.

In this passage Jesus has gone to the temple, has stood up in front of the people, and has read from the scroll of Isaiah. As Jesus read from the scroll, the people realized that what Jesus was reading was happening right before their eyes. Jesus is telling them that He is the one who has come to give liberty to the captives and to set the oppressed free. Jesus is the one who can do all those things, but it is not until we give the things that so easily oppress us over to Jesus that we can truly experience freedom and liberty.

FAMILY TABLE TALK QUESTIONS

1. What is something in your life that has oppressed you?
2. Can you experience true liberty and freedom without God? Why?

PRAYER FOCUS

- Pray that God would give you liberty and freedom from the things that hold you captive and oppress you.
- Pray for those in this world who need to experience true liberty and freedom that only God can provide.
- Pray for an opportunity today to share the love and hope of Jesus with someone you encounter.