Lifegroup Study (AM) – 26th Aug 2018

**A Message To Change The World**

**INTRODUCTION**

Jesus would go around the country side visiting the Synagogues. They were small ‘house churches’ where the Jews would regularly gather to worship and fellowship. It was traditional for the rabbi to select a scroll and read from it to those gathered. Jesus, often called ‘Rabbi’ or ‘Teacher’, had a reputation for clear, insightful teaching. One day he visited his home town of Nazareth, entered the Synagogue and asked for a specific scroll. What followed was an extraordinary statement that both shocked and amazed those that heard him. It was so controversial that the Jews tried to kill him, but Jesus miraculously slipped away. He went on to do exactly what he said he would, preaching a the good news (Word), healing the sick and blind (Signs), and setting the oppressed free (deeds). He continued to proclaim the kingdom of God and urged his disciples to do the same. It became a message that changed the world, because Jesus did and still does, fulfil this word in our lives.

**KEY SCRIPTURES**

**READ Luke 4:14-22 (NIV)**

**14**Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. **15**He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

**16**He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, **17**and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

**18**“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,  
**19**    to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

**20**Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him.**21**He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

**22**All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.

**KEY POINTS FROM SERMON**

* Jesus was constantly talking about the Kingdom of God.
* Jesus demonstrated the Kingdom of God had come through preaching the Word, miraculous signs and practical deeds.
* Jesus didn’t just fulfil this prophecy, He sent His disciples to do the same

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. If you heard the sermon, was there anything God spoke to you about personally from this message?
2. Within this passage, what insights into God’s character do you find?
3. What does this passage teach us about God's purposes for His people?
4. Jesus preached the gospel, did signs and wonders and practically cared for people. What happens if we only emphasise on one of these three? Is there one of these three you think you need to grow in?
5. Why do you think the people where amazed and couldn’t get over the fact this was Josephs son? What does it suggest about the way others might view you as a Christian?
6. This message changed the world. How has it changed your life? What part do you play in sharing this message with the world?
7. What difference do you think the ‘anointing’ of the Holy Spirit makes to your ability to follow Jesus and do the same?
8. **James 1:22** says “*Don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves*.” Is there anything that God is asking you to stop, start or continue in this passage? What is the next step you need to take in response to God’s word? (i.e. obedience)

**PRAYER POINTS**

* For each of us to have a fresh revelation of the kingdom of God as Jesus did.
* For us to follow Jesus in Word, Signs and Deed (i.e. the prophecy of Isaiah fulfilled in our own lives).

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sam Alberry Event: CANCELLED** The combined churches event with Sam Alberry has been postponed due to his father falling ill. Please pray for his family.

**FLOOD DUNEDIN Sat 15th Sept:** An afternoon ofsweeping through our city demonstrating the love of God in creative ways. Talk Esther Holt or Dion Fasi for more info.

**BAPTISM Sun 16th Sept PM Service**: Does anyone in your Lifegroup want to be baptised. Contact Lois Little 0211723537 by 10th Sept.