Jesus proclaims:

Let the Oppressed Go Free!



Luke 4:14-30 (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:



"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you ... I will put breath in you and you will come to life... I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live." (Ezek 37:5,9, 14)



"wait for the gift my Father promised ...in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit ...

you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you..."

(Acts 1:4, 8)



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, 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.

²³ Jesus said to them, 'Surely you will quote this proverb to me: "Physician, heal yourself!" And you will tell me, "Do here in your home town what we have heard that you did in Capernaum."' ²⁴ 'Truly I tell you,' he continued, 'no prophet is accepted in his home town.

²⁵ I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. 26 Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. 27 And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed - only Naaman the Syrian.'

28 All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. 29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. 3º But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.





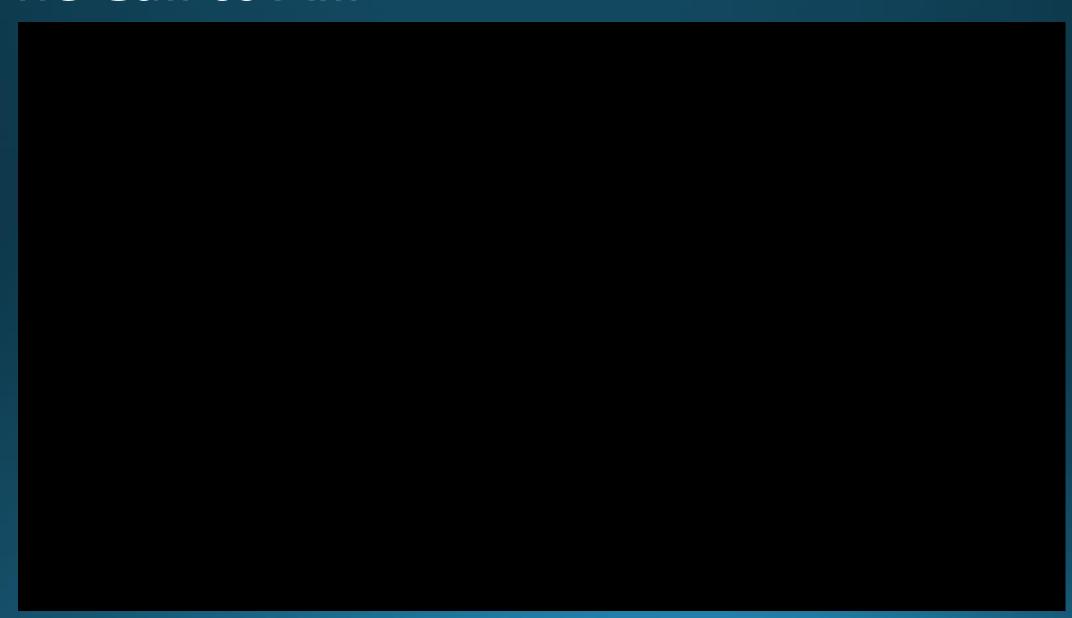




"I saw a map of the world with waves crashing on to the shores. But, as I watched, the waves became young people and covered all the continents of the world." Loren Cunningham



The Call to All!



Every human being is created in the image and likeness of God and so inherently possesses human dignity. By the same Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead we are empowered to proclaim freedom and salvation in Christ Jesus and to humbly demonstrate the loving-kindness, justice and mercy of our Father.

Justice

In the name of the Triune God, whose throne is built on justice, be blessed with justice. Every injustice will be forgiven and removed from your life. May you always listen to God's voice, the only just judge who will always judge rightly. You will clearly discern what is just and true and decide cases with justice. You will not be swayed by the rich, or powerful, or those who are wise in their own eyes. You will see clearly and judge rightly.

May oppressors fear the Lord because of your stand for justice. Be blessed with a level path, confidence in God's justice, and the outworking of His justice to lift up all who are beaten down and oppressed. May the downtrodden and neglected be lifted up and give thanks for your life. Your life will be a taste of the sweetness of God's rule and reign and the Coming Day when every wrong will be put right. Be blessed with justice.

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