

## **Luke 4:14-22**

### **Jesus Begins His Work in Galilee**

<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus returned to Galilee, and the power of the Holy Spirit was with him. The news about him spread throughout all that territory. <sup>15</sup> He taught in the synagogues and was praised by everyone.

### **Jesus Is Rejected at Nazareth**

<sup>16</sup> Then Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath he went as usual to the synagogue. He stood up to read the Scriptures <sup>17</sup> and was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written,

<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to set free the oppressed  
<sup>19</sup> and announce that the time has come  
when the Lord will save his people.”

<sup>20</sup> Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. All the people in the synagogue had their eyes fixed on him, <sup>21</sup> as he said to them, “This passage of scripture has come true today, as you heard it being read.”

<sup>22</sup> They were all well impressed with him and marvelled at the eloquent words that he spoke. They said, “Isn't he the son of Joseph?”

### **Notes to help understanding of this scripture:**

In the gospel of Luke, this event comes after Jesus' temptation in the desert, where he spent 40 days praying about the work to which his Father had called him. This passage from the prophet Isaiah, marks the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus after what is known as his 'hidden life' when he worked as a carpenter in Nazareth. Luke always highlights the compassion of Jesus, his concern for the healing of body and spirit.

Luke describes the beginning of Jesus' ministry, "...he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath... he found the place where it is written: *The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.*" It is no accident that Jesus chooses this passage, which announces good news to the poor, liberty to captives, sight to the blind, freedom to the oppressed. Jesus could not be clearer about his mission – he has come to restore those whose spirit is crushed, to bring hope and kindness to those whose hearts are broken. So, are we listening? Do we take these words seriously? Think about how poverty can hold people captive and prevent them from living a full life; think of the suffering that comes with war and famine. All people are made in God's image. God made the good things of the world for all, and all our sisters and brothers have a right to share the gifts of the earth. This is justice – this would be good news for all.