

MESSAGE AND MINISTRY

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Mark 1:14-15, Luke 4:14-30

1. We are told by both Matthew and Mark that Jesus left Judea when He heard that John the Baptist had been arrested by Herod.
2. According to John 4:39-54 He first went to Cana of Galilee where He had turned water into wine.
3. While there a “certain royal official” requested that Jesus come to Capernaum to heal his sick Son who was at the point of death.
4. Rather than going with him Jesus said to him, “Go; your son lives.”
5. We are then told, “The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started off.”
6. Later it was established that the man’s son was healed at the exact time Jesus pronounced his healing.
7. The man, and his whole household, became believers.
8. After leaving Cana Jesus made His way to Nazareth, where He had been raised.
9. Here, at the beginning of His ministry in Galilee, Jesus summarized, or defined, both His message and His ministry.

I. His message. Mark 1:14-15

A. Notice that Jesus came into Galilee, “preaching the Gospel of God.”

NOTE: Those who distort the Gospel will answer to God.

1. Galatians 1:6-10

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; 7 which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! 9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed! 10 For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

2. After confronting the Corinthian Christians for their willingness to entertain false doctrine Paul declared, “I preached the Gospel of God to you.” 2 Corinthians 11:7

3. Prior to that statement he declared, “For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.” 2 Corinthians 11:4

B. Jesus stated some facts and issued a command.

1. The time is fulfilled—no more waiting.

2. The Kingdom of God is at hand—about to be fully manifested.

3. Repent.

NOTE: Jesus began and ended His earthly ministry by proclaiming the necessity of repentance. See Luke 24:46-49.

4. Believe in, put your trust in, Gospel; the Good News related to Jesus’ life, death, burial, and resurrection.

II. His ministry. Luke 4:14-30

- A. Jesus' ministry was accomplished in the power of the Holy Spirit. 14, 16
- B. God anointed Him to preach the Gospel to the poor (in spirit).
1. To those who understand their absolute and total, spiritual poverty.
"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." Matthew 5:3
 2. To those who are helpless, lowly, and afflicted. Matthew 9:36
Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.
- C. He was sent to proclaim release to the captives.
1. Most lost people do not see themselves as captives, but they are. Colossians 1:13-14
For He (God) rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
 2. In Christ we are no longer captives. John 8:34-36
Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. 35 "The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. 36 **"So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."**
- D. He was also sent to proclaim recovery of sight to the blind. 2 Corinthians 4:1-4
Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, 2 but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
- E. He came to set free those who are oppressed, downtrodden, brokenhearted, bruised and broken by sin.
- F. Finally Jesus came to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord when the salvation and free favor of God profusely abounds.

APPLICATION

1. It is interesting to note that the people's response to Jesus was initially favorable. 22
2. Things took a turn for the worse when He began to confront their resistance and lack of faith.
3. His two examples of Gentiles who were blessed because of their faith enraged the people to the point that they wanted to kill Him.
4. How often people's attitudes change when the truth of God's Word is powerfully applied to their hearts and lives.