

My Notes:

Following Jesus: "On the road learning to WAJW"

2nd Conversation: Release

Let's just be sure: WAJW



Jesus' Mission: Release

We need to ask the question: why did Jesus come to earth? Often the answer is, to die so I could be saved from my sins...well, yes, but Jesus puts it a bit differently, so it might be worth a minute to see what He says.

Luke 4:18-21; Isaiah 61:1-3; 7

Spirit of the Lord is upon *me*,

For he has anointed *me*;

To preach good news to the poor he has sent *me*:

(1) To proclaim for the captives release,

And to the blind sight;

(2) To send forth the oppressed in release;

(3) To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Let's look at 3 pronouns, Jesus' purpose statement, and 3 descriptive phrases. The pronoun is "me". It draws the attention to Jesus. This is his statement answering the question of why he came to earth and he is quoting it right out of the prophet Isaiah. It is all about Jesus and that is how it should be. Jesus is the only one that can say, "me, me, me"!

The purpose statement is: "to preach good news to the poor". Who are the poor? They are not only those who have a lack of physical subsistence, but also those who are excluded from status. These are the people who are considered to be outside of the boundaries of God's people. For the Jewish man that included all gentiles. These social boundaries included those who were unclean. Women and children also had limited access to social circles. Jesus came to preach to all and more specifically to those who were rejected by society...those on the outside.

Matthew 5:3 states, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." The "poor" are those who are humble enough to recognize their need of a Savior.

The 3 descriptive statements from Luke 4:18-21, describe the heart of Jesus' ministry...Release!

1. **Release:** Forgiveness of sin. **Salvation:** Jesus gives us a new status: child of the King!
2. **Release:** From the binding power of Satan. **Healing:** Jesus brings freedom from diabolical oppressions, social restrictions and physical diseases.
3. **Release:** To the time of God's gracious visitation. **Jubilee:** Jesus restores God's original purpose for you! The year of Jubilee in the Old Testament was a provision of God's love toward all people, occurring every 50 years, as explained in Leviticus 25:
 - i. Land restored to original assignments, we are caretakers of God's provision; He is the owner! (purpose of God)
 - ii. Slaves were freed
 - iii. Debt forgiven (every 7th year)

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- iv. We are reminded that we are dependent on God for all things...He is our Provider!

Jubilee was a picture of God’s plan to restore the life of each one who becomes His disciple. Jubilee represents fullness of joy in the life of the person in whom God’s Spirit dwells.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. Are you free? (Walk through Release points)
Fill in the chart from Isaiah 61. Are you experiencing new life in Christ?

Isaiah 61	Life Without Christ	Life in Christ
Verse 1	Brokenhearted, captive, prisoner	Freedom, release from darkness
Verse 2		
Verse 3		
Verse 7		

- 2. What do we need to deal with right now?

- 3. What will you change in your life based on your freedom in Christ? Let’s continue to talk about it next time.