

The Heart of Jesus is to Minister to the Needy

1. Jesus came to minister to the Needy
 - A. Jesus quotes Isaiah in announcing His purpose – Luke 4:14-21 (996); Isa 61:1-2 (724)
 - B. The elements of Jesus' statement
 - 1) The Spirit and anointing of God shows God's purpose in this plan – vs. 18
 - 2) He is to bring good news to the poor – vs. 18
 - a. Ministry to the needy is true religion – James 1:27 (1172)
 - b. The poor are chosen by God – James 2:1-7 (1173)
 - c. The poor in Spirit will inherit the kingdom of God – Matthew 5:3
 - 3) He brings freedom to the prisoner – vs. 18
 - a. The thief on the cross experienced the forgiveness and promise of eternal life while on the cross – Luke 23:39-43 (1024)
 - 4) He would bring sight to the blind – vs. 18
 - a. Jesus frequently healed the sick
 - b. He came, however, to heal sinners – Luke 5:31-32
 - 5) He would bring release to the oppressed – vs. 18
 - a. Oppression is violating the rights of others to equal treatment
 - b. God is a refuge for the oppressed – Psalm 9:9 (530)
 - c. God defends the oppressed – Psalm 10:17-18 (531)
 - d. God delivers the oppressed – Psalm 82:3-4 (576)
 - 6) He is to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
 - a. This is a reference to the year of Jubilee which provided a reset every 50 years, everyone got a second chance – Leviticus 25:10-13
2. God is concerned not just with our worship, but also with our actions – Isaiah 58:1-14 (721)
 - A. God's people had sought Him in vain – vs. 1-3a
 - B. The fault in their fasting was that their behavior was not acceptable to God – vs. 3b-5
 - C. God's desire is that our actions are consistent with our belief in God – vs. 6-7
 - D. When this is true, then God will answer – vs. 8-10
 - E. The same principle is also applied to the Sabbath – vs. 13-14
 - F. What should be our response? – Luke 4:22-30 (996)
 - G. The response of Jesus' audience
 - 1) They were amazed – vs. 22
 - 2) They were cynical – vs. 22
 - a. We have different ways in which we are cynical
 - (1) We assign blame for their condition
 - (2) We don't want the messiness to affect us
 - (3) We assume the government will take care of the problem
 - H. God will work through others if we close our hearts – vs. 23-27
 - I. Jesus is ultimately rejected – vs. 28-30