

DRAWN IN: Dreaming

January 7, 2024

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Luke 4:14-21

14 Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. 15 He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

18 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the
captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'

20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. This is an important opening scene for Jesus' public ministry. It provides a clear glimpse of what Jesus was all about. Does this "mission statement" using the words of Isaiah change your understanding of Jesus and his ministry? If so, how?
3. What does it mean to "follow Jesus" today if this is what Jesus set out to accomplish?
4. Drill down into God's dream for the world: what does "good news for the poor" look like in the 21st century? What about "release for the captives" or "sight for the blind" or "the oppressed going free"? How can 2024 still be the "year of the Lord's favor"?
5. What dreams do you have for 2024? What are your hopes for yourself, your family, your community, or our world? What do you need to make those dreams come true?

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