

# Beyond: From Passion to Purpose

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## Luke 4:16-21

<sup>16</sup> 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, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> '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,

<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

<sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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 passage reminds us that Jesus was formed by a community and by traditions. He grew up somewhere, had customs or habits, and was known to people (in verse 23, some in the synagogue say, "Isn't this Joseph's son?"). What traditions, communities, places, or experiences formed who you are today?
3. Have you always felt the same about the traditions or communities that formed you? Looking back, do you relate to those traditions or communities differently?
4. What do you think children formed by South Elkhorn will remember, believe, or be committed to?
5. Jesus builds his "mission statement" from the prophet Isaiah (61:1-2)./

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What scriptures from the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) stick with you or guide your faith?

6. Some people sum up the purpose of Christ in the passion of Jesus: he came to die for my/our sins on the cross.
  - a. How does this passage deepen, widen, challenge, or complicate that idea about Jesus?
  - b. How does the passion of Jesus take on new meaning with Christ's clearly stated purpose from Luke's gospel?
7. Jesus stepped back into his hometown synagogue after some time away. Have you ever returned to a location from your childhood—a school, church, store, home, etc—and experienced it from a new perspective? What was that like? What did you notice?
8. If Jesus came to bring good news, release people, recover sight, and liberate people, then how should that shape the mission of the people who carry on in his Spirit (ie, the Church today)?
  - a. In what ways do you live out that mission?
  - b. How does South Elkhorn live out that mission?
  - c. What forms of captivity, blindness, poverty, and oppression are present in your community and need

the church's attention? What are ways that Christ-followers can respond individually and as Christ's church?

9. Consider reading the rest of this passage: verses 22-30.
  - a. Why is this mission statement from Jesus so difficult for people to accept, then and now?
  - b. How does the idea of Jesus "continuing on" despite that death-dealing resistance foreshadow what is to come?