

Sermon from 23rd Jan 2020 by Rev. Sandy Clarke, Curate.

Pray – Come Lord Jesus, be among us now

Our gospel passage is often referred to as Luke's manifesto. Jesus is continually proclaiming the Kingdom of God here with us. What does the Kingdom of God look like? This passage. Who is it for? Everyone. When is it available? Today

In his ministry, Jesus proclaimed this good news to the poor, but he also fed them.

He freed the paralysed man from the prison of his own sin by forgiving him and also freed Barrabas by taking his place,

He restored sight to two blind men that we know of, but also healed many more.

He set Mary Magdalene free from the oppression of demons as well as the man at Genesareth as well as releasing Lazarus and the young girl from death.

This passage has truly been fulfilled in the person and ministry of Christ.

Let's take a look at the scripture from verse 18 for a fuller picture to see what other translations and paraphrases offer.

The Good News Bible offers this passage

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is with me.
He has anointed me
to tell the Good News to the poor.
He has sent me^[a]
to announce forgiveness to the prisoners of sin
and the restoring of sight to the blind,
to forgive those who have been shattered by sin,
19 to announce the year of the Lord's favor."

20 **Yeshua** closed the book, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. Everyone in the synagogue watched him closely. **21** Then he said to them, "This passage came true today when you heard me read it."

Or The Message

God's Spirit is on me;
he's chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor,
Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and
recovery of sight to the blind,
To set the burdened and battered free,
to announce, "This is God's time to shine!"

He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the place was on him, intent. Then he started in, "You've just heard Scripture make history. It came true just now in this place."

Tom Wright

He has anointed me To tell the poor good news

He has sent me to announce release to the prisoners

And sight to the blind
To set the wounded victims free,
To announce the year of God's special favour
He rolled up the scroll, gave it to the attendant and sat
down. All eyes were upon him. Today, he began, this
scripture is fulfilled in your own hearing.

Let's reflect. Where do you see the need for the kingdom of
God in our world? Where are the poor? Where are the
Blind? Where are the prisoners? Where are the oppressed?
These are bigger than any one of us. Do you feel a call to
pray? To inform? To give? to act? To somehow get more
involved?

Today is the day. It's time to let God shine...through us

But what about ourselves?

What part of you

is starving?

is blind?

Is held captive to unforgiveness?

is wounded and oppressed?

Jesus said Today, Today saving and healing are at hand

The thing is, God's healing, provision and freedom don't
always look like what we want. In order to be fed, we may
be called to go deeper into spiritual discipline, examine our
own habits that impoverish us. Adopt habits that feed our
inner places of poverty

In order to see, we may be called upon to experience life in
the shoes of another, like was offered in last year's Lent
course, Living in Love and Faith, to walk in the shoes of
those in need who live very differently at the Fridge, to
explore ideas that seem repugnant. In our Advent course a
group of us will be making a challenge to read a
diametrically different newspaper for a week or two during
Lent

To be set free, there is often a need to forgive or be
forgiven.

To be healed of oppression there is often to reach out, a
need for self-care and self-love.

We are in the dark days of the early new year. Some of us
may still be finding re-engagement with the world difficult,
but this time of year can also be a good time to reflect and
re-imagine

the year of God's special favour is now

"This passage came true just this moment when you heard
Jesus read it."

Today. Today