

# THE DOCTOR'S REPORT

## Liberty for the Captives

TEXT: Luke 4:14-21

INTRODUCTION:

Luke 4:14-21 <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. <sup>15</sup> And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. <sup>16</sup> So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. <sup>17</sup> And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: <sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the LORD *is* upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to *the* poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to *the* captives And recovery of sight to *the* blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; <sup>19</sup> To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD." <sup>20</sup> Then He closed the book, and gave *it* back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. <sup>21</sup> And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

### I. JESUS CAME TO ACCOMPLISH THE DIVINE PURPOSE.

- A. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me"
- B. "He has anointed Me"
- C. "He has sent Me"
- D. Jesus was intentional in doing what the Father had given Him to do.

### II. THE BENEFICIARIES OF JESUS' MINISTRY WERE THOSE CRUSHED BY LIFE.

Lk. 4:18 "The Spirit of the LORD *is* upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to *the* poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to *the* captives And recovery of sight to *the* blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;

- Poor - beggars

- **Brokenhearted – shattered heart**
- **Captives - imprisoned**
- **Blind – physical and spiritual**
- **Oppressed - broken**

**A. This does not mean Jesus endorsed Liberation Theology.**

1. Liberation Theology developed in the 1960's & 70's in Latin America.
2. It primarily sought to gain the endorsement of the Catholic church for man's solution for oppression, especially through the means of revolution.
3. That Jesus did not support man's methodology is clearly seen in Jesus' response to Roman rule.

“Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar.”

“If you are compelled to go one mile, go two.”

**B. Jesus' blessing of the poor, the broken, the hurting, the oppressed was through the gospel.**

*Luke 4:18 “The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; ...*

**III. AS FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST, WE TOO SHOULD MINISTER TO THOSE BEING CRUSHED BY LIFE.**

There are more things that we can do than I will be able to mention this morning, but I hope that not only will these things be taken to heart, but they will suggest to you other things that we can do.

**A. We can work to save the lives of unborn babies.**

1. As we saw in the dvd earlier, it is hard to argue from a medical or scientific point of view with the statement that **life begins at conception**.

2. Statistically speaking, the most dangerous time of life for a person in our world today is the nine months they spend in their mother's womb. Sadly this is especially true in America. And while for a few years the outcry over the killing of helpless unborn children slowed the rate of expansion of abortion in America a little, now, under the leadership of our president, the abortion culture is gaining strength rapidly.
  - a. I applaud any non-violent, righteous effort people may make in combating this supreme tragedy in our nation and our world.
  - b. Since the time God convicted my heart concerning this matter, I have participated in those efforts at one time or another.
    - 1) I have stood on street corners with signs.
    - 2) I have marched, and prayed at abortion clinics.
    - 3) I have given money and worked in campaigns to elect pro life candidates, and I have worked to not elect those who support the culture of death.
    - 4) I have lobbied senators and congressmen.
    - 5) I led a group of about 25 brothers and sisters in the Lord to the state capitol in an attempt to persuade our senator to vote pro life on a critical issue.
    - 6) My wife and I helped establish the first Pregnancy Help Clinic in Tulsa, OK; and Karen became its first director.
  - c. I only tell you this to say that **whatever you can do that is godly and loving to protect and preserve the lives of unborn children, it is in the same mode of ministry with our Lord who said His Father sent Him to set at liberty those who are oppressed and broken.**
  - d. But I want to tell you, I believe one of the best ministries that exists today to bring the transforming power of Christ and the renewing power of the gospel to bear upon those threatened by abortion or those who are damaged by its aftermath are ministries like our Sheltering Tree Pregnancy Care Center.

- e. Did you know that this year we celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sheltering Tree. I want our Founding Director, Jorie Crutchfield to stand. Now I want everyone who works in any way with this ministry to stand. When the Medical Clinic moves into the Center of Hope, we are going to do some renovation in the two story building they have been using, and our Sheltering Tree will move in and expand their space!
- f. What I love about The Sheltering Tree Pregnancy Care Center is that they not only minister to try to save the lives of unborn babies, they also minister to the women as well. And this is another place we can join the Lord in His ministry to the oppressed and broken.

#### **B. We can love and minister to mothers in distress.**

1. To women who have aborted their baby we can show them the way to God's forgiveness and healing.
2. To women who are pregnant and alone, we can become their friend and helper, showing them and coming along side of them to allow their child to live.
3. To those with babies but who are now struggling, many by themselves, with the load of providing and of caring, we can love, support, help, and assist them with their load.

#### **C. We can love and minister to children who are oppressed.**

1. **Now I am talking about those who have been given life, but life in the younger years has been especially tough and difficult – and they are all around us.**
2. **We can be a Safe Family in partnership with our Florida Baptist Children's Home.** Describe ministry. In fact, we are allowing Kayla Blank, the Family Support Counselor for FBCH to office out of our church, ultimately in the Center of Hope.
3. **We can go a step further and be a foster family, again working in conjunction with our FBCH.** There is a greater need for foster families in Bay County than anywhere else in Florida. Right now, Bay County has 382 children in need of out of home care, and there are not enough foster families

to meet the need. Therefore, children have to be sent outside the county, further disrupting their lives with new schools and environments.

What an opportunity for those who want to heal the brokenhearted! To bring children into your home who have been hurt, broken, sometime physically but almost always emotionally, to bring them in and love them and nurture them. Can you see what the Lord could do when you put that child in a safe environment, bring them to church, begin to tell them of Christ? As a foster family you could make the difference between a person's childhood brokenness turning into a lifetime of captivity and oppression to a person being set free to live and be all that their Creator purposed for them to be. You could make a difference that lasts for eternity not only in one person's life, but in their offspring, and all of those they impact across the years.

- 4. And another step is to adopt a child who is already in the midst of brokenness or who is headed there.** This could be a local adoption, but it could also be an international adoption. You can adopt children in places where they would have little opportunity to ever hear the gospel or know of God's salvation through Jesus' death upon the cross. Mark and Stacie Baroni are just back from China where they completed their adoption of Kaylee to join their family with Hayden and Brandon. Can you even imagine how wonderfully different Kaylee's life is going to be, not only her years in this world, but for all eternity, because the Baronis took her from foster care in China and have made her a part of their family?

#### **D. We can love and minister to the poor.**

- 1. That is what the Center of Hope is all about.** By the way, our **goal** in our campaign **for a Time for Hope** was **\$2.1 million**. As of this week, money given and commitments yet to be paid total **\$2,119,635!** Is God good, or what?
2. I am praying that we will be able to give out more food to the hungry than ever before.
3. I pray we can help the poor with clothing better than ever before.
4. I pray we will be able to expand our provision of medical care, doing more than ever before,

5. But folks, most of all, I pray that we will continue to do and do all the more what Jesus Himself did. He ministered to the poor and brokenhearted, to those held captive and blind physically and spiritually, to all of those who were oppressed. Jesus ministered with the gospel.
  - a. He told the of God's love and provision.

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

He demonstrated God's love as He acted in mercy and compassion, but most of all as He went voluntarily to the cross to die in the place of all of us who have sinned against God.

He caused His Word to be written and preserved that all might know that salvation is available to them.

**Rom. 6:23** For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jesus caused the gospel message to be clear so that everyone from a child to a senior adult would have the opportunity to receive the gift of eternal life.

**Rom. 10:9** that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

CONCLUSION: Jesus said,

**Luke 4:18** "The Spirit of the LORD *is* upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to *the* poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to *the* captives And recovery of sight to *the* blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;

And now He invites us to join Him in that work. Hallelujah, What a Savior!

INVITATION