

Bible study notes week starting 23 10 22

Luke 4: 14 - 21

14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. 15 He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18 *'The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'*

20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 He began by saying to them, 'Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.'

We reflect on this scripture in the light of Ian Burton's talk, given at Hearsall on 23rd October. Ian works for Christians Against Poverty in Coventry.

1. The groups of people mentioned in verse 18 all have clear needs. Stating the obvious, what do poor people, prisoners, blind people and oppressed people respectively need?
2. How do those categories apply to you personally, and what help does Jesus bring you?
3. We heard that people who were doing quite well in life can find themselves spiralling into chronic debt. Outline the series of events that might happen in someone's life to bring them into debt that feels unpayable.
4. How would a person in chronic debt feel about themselves, their prospects and their loved ones?
5. Ian argued that these verses from Luke were Jesus' chosen mandate for his ministry, and by implication they also give us our mandate. To what degree do you accept these ideas?
6. CAP brings Christian witness alongside advice and support for getting out of debt. For example, as well as helping people manage their money and pay off debts in a planned and affordable manner, they offer prayer and friendship and may introduce people to church. Do you think this is a good balance, or should people just be helped with their financial problems?
7. How can you personally respond to this study? How can the church respond? See <https://capuk.org/get-involved/become-a-church-partner> for ideas.