

Jesus Comes
March 18, 2012

1. Welcome to Open Table Church, my name is Wayne Phillips and we are starting a new series today the Jesus series that will take us through Easter.
 - a. The Series goes,
 - i. Jesus Comes
 - ii. Calls
 - iii. Conquers
 - iv. Rises
 - v. Continues
 - vi. and Returns
 - vii. So that's 6 weeks and it's all coming from the gospel of Luke which is a masterpiece, great literary structure, multiple layers. A great read as we head into Easter.
 - b. Today we're looking back at Jesus' coming and how that affects us, so I've asked Ann Cooley to share how she came into relationship with God and what that looks like in her life.
 - i. Ann (5 minutes)
 - ii. Every faith story is unique. And as we step into a relationship with God and begin to do life with Him our story becomes part of a larger story, the metanarrative that God has revealed through Scripture, Genesis through Revelation.
 - c. Here's a diagram of The Story:
 - i. At the left where this timeline begins we have Creation: Genesis 1:1 – In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And He created humanity, unique from the rest of the animals, with the capacity for close meaningful relationship with God and with each other. And in the beginning, it was good, very good, shalom, peace.
 - ii. But then, not far into the Story we have The Fall. A deep fracture in the relationship between humanity and God occurred early on when we used our free will to choose do life apart from God, in ways that oppose God. Early on humanity rejected God's good words, said No, we're going to figure it out on our own. They stepped out of the God – humanity hierarchy, turned their faces away from God, and we continue to do this today. This turning away not only creates separation and conflict between us and God, it also created conflict in our relationships, with the rest of nature, and even within us. Things are no longer whole, we no longer have the shalom that we were created to enjoy. That's Genesis 3.

- iii. Now God, rather than saying fine, I'm out of here, God instead launches a Rescue Plan.
 - iv. This Rescue plan begins with one person Abraham, in Genesis 12, around 1900 B.C., continues on through Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Esther, down through to Malachi, 1900 B.C. through 400 B.C. God works through the lives of these people, and speaks to them about a Rescuer that He will send to reconcile people back to Himself. Heal the root problem which is broken relationship with God. Restore Shalom, peace, wholeness.
 - d. TRANS: Today we're looking at the Coming of this Rescuer, this Reconciler, this Peace Maker, this Promised One. Specifically we are looking the scene where Jesus reveals that He is the Sent One, He is the Promised Rescuer. The scene takes place when Jesus was about 30 years old in Nazareth, the town where he grew up. You can read along in your Bible or the bulletin.
2. **Luke 4:16-21** ¹⁶ ¶ **He [Jesus] went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom.** [a synagogue is a gathering, basically a Jewish church where they meet on Saturday, the Shabbat, the Sabbath, day of rest. The typical order of service, they began by reciting the Shema: Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!, then Prayer, then Readings from the Law & Prophets (our OT), then a Sermon, then a Blessing] **And he stood up to read.** ¹⁷ **The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:** [quote] ¹⁸ **"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me [set me apart] to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,** ¹⁹ **to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."** [end quote, verse 20] 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 **and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."**
- a. Whoa. This is a big deal. First off, there was already some buzz going on about Jesus—his birth was attended by some unique, supernatural events. John the Baptist had recently made some statements about Jesus—calling Him the Lamb of God, the one who takes away the sins of the world. People were wondering if Jesus was the Promised One, or another prophet, a teacher, what. And it's Jesus' hometown, it's a small town, they know Jesus—he's a regular in this synagogue.
 - b. **Isaiah 61:1-2** Then Jesus picks a well-known passage in Isaiah, a Messianic Passage. Chapter 61:1-2. A Messianic Passage is a passage in the Hebrew Scripture referring to the Messiah:

- i. Messiah from the Hebrew, and Christ from the Greek both mean “anointed one” – marked out one – they would anoint, mark with oil kings and priests when they were chosen to be king or priest. THE Messiah is THE capital “A” Anointed One – THE One Set apart by God as Rescuer, as the Promised One.
 - c. Isaiah 61:1-2 is a big time, well known passage about the Messiah – and Jesus who is what a prophet? a teacher? – they’re not sure – Jesus starts reading it. And everyone’s eyes get big.
- 3. After Jesus reads it, verse 20 tells us 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,** [what’s he going to say?] ²¹ **and he [Jesus] began by saying to them, "Today [now, right here and now in front of you] this scripture is fulfilled [past tense] in your hearing."**
 - i. v.21 **Jesus claims to be THE Messiah**, THE SENT ONE, the Rescuer who was to come.
 - ii. In this moment Jesus not only reveals His identity, **Jesus also explains what He has come to do.**
- 4. **Let’s go back and look at that in VERSE 18** ¹⁸ **"The Spirit of the Lord is on me** [the Spirit of YHWH – the proper name of God given to Moses at the burning bush, Exodus 3—The Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of YHWH is on me...], **because he** [YHWH, the Lord, not some person but God himself] **has anointed me** [has marked me, has set me apart to do what? ...] **to** [and then we get this list] **preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,** ¹⁹ **to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."**
 - a. List
 - i. to preach good news to the poor
 - ii. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners/captives
 - iii. and recovery of sight for the blind
 - iv. to release the oppressed
 - v. to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor
 - b. Now look at this list.
 - i. First question, give me some answers...What kind of people has The RESCUER been sent to?
 - ii. So, what does this tell you about God?
 - 1. compassionate
 - 2. He doesn’t just sit back in comfort. The Son of God descends and moves into hard places, difficulties, the lives of the poor, places where people are bound, captive, into darkness, into places of oppression...to do what? Speak good news, speak and

bring freedom, bring light, free the oppressed, speak about the Lord's favor, His kindness, His goodness.

3. Jesus sets up His work—this is what I'm going to do, and then he goes and does these things.
- c. A bit later in Luke, in Chapter 7, John the Baptist—the one who was sent to announce Jesus. John sent some of his friends to Jesus to get some reassurance that He is indeed the Messiah, the Sent One.
 - i. **Luke 7:20-22** ²⁰ **When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?'"** ²¹ **At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind.** ²² **So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.**
 - ii. Jesus tells them, look, I'm doing the things I said I would. I'm doing the things Isaiah said the Messiah would do.
5. Jesus does not turn away from our mess...the poverty—spiritual, relational poverty, and our real needs. He doesn't turn away from our need. His love is stronger than that.
 - a. He sees the oppression, the blindness, the captivity, the uncleanness in your life and steps into it to release you, heal you, set you free, make you clean! That's what God is like.
 - i. He's personal, he knows you, he steps our messy lives to lift us up. He sees all, knows all—all of our stuff, the thing we're ashamed of—awful things we have done, awful things done to us...and He wants to be present there to bring freedom, life, good news, His favor, light.
6. And Jesus didn't stop doing that after his death, resurrection and ascension. He's still doing it. Guess how He does that now? Through you and me. The Spirit of the Lord has anointed you, the Holy Spirit has filled you to guide you and direct you and lead you to **PPT**:
 - i. preach good news to the poor
 - ii. proclaim freedom for the prisoners/captives
 - iii. and recovery of sight for the blind
 - iv. release the oppressed
 - v. proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
 - b. You and me, His sons and daughters, filled, marked and anointed by the Holy Spirit.
 - c. When you say "yes" to the Holy Spirit, "yes" to Jesus, same thing, Yes to God, these are the things you will begin doing with Him.

- d. We are NOT to shy away from the lowly, the outcast, the hurting, the oppressed—we are to come alongside them, to enter those places like Jesus does.
- e. That's where God is. I'm telling you, if you start saying "yes" to Jesus, he will lead you into these things—it's what He's doing. He's not interested in giving you a super comfortable, tidy, cushy, BORING life. He wants to equip you, fills you, strengthens you and guides you to go with Him into dark places to bring light, to oppressive places and bring freedom, hard places and bring word of His favor.
- f. When you say "yes" to following Jesus you're saying "yes" to adventure—and fullness of life. Not ease of life, fullness of life. Not comfort but aliveness.
- g. Jesus has led me, I don't know where to start: faraway places, dark places, etc....and it is in those places where God shines.
- h. As you do these things, as you say "yes" to Jesus, say yes to the leading of the Spirit, you will see God show up.

7. Application

- a. Where is the Spirit of Christ in you leading you? Where is the Spirit of Christ leading you to press in, to step in, to step through the discomfort, the awkwardness, the anxiety and bring good news, bring life, bring your presence, bring God's presence, bring comfort, bring light, bring freedom, share about the Lord's favor?
- b. Where is he leading you? We're going to give you a few moments to be still and write down what He brings to your mind.
- c. give a few minutes

8. Pray

- a. Connection card
- b. Easter Games