

Luke 4:16-24

¹⁶When [Jesus] 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, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "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,
¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰And 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. ²¹Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" ²⁴And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown.

Reflection....

- 1) How does this passage specifically express Jesus' understanding of the purpose of his ministry?
- 2) How is this purpose statement of Jesus connected to the wider mission of God in and for the world as revealed elsewhere in scripture?
- 3) Can you think of ways that Jesus worked to fulfill these purposes?
- 4) How does Jesus' purpose help us, as the body of Christ in the world today, to form a "purpose for mission" today?

Discuss together the following quotes, especially in the context of the above passage and the life of your congregation

"Life changing ministry begins when we help people to hunger for what God is up to rather than simply settling for getting by with what we can do. It is God's mission that sparks everything else, even for those of us who have been in the church for a long time." (Daubert, Living Lutheran, 30)

"Martin Luther wrote in the Small Catechism- "God's kingdom will come without our praying for it...but we ask in this prayer that it may also come to us." He expresses our Lutheran understanding that God is in charge and it is all about God's work, but he also ended this section with the importance that we connect what God is up to with our lives.