**Person of Christ Talk – Luke 4 – This is God’s Year to Act!**

Luke 4:14-21 (NIV) 14Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. 15He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. 16He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. 17The 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 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, 19to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” 20Then 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, 21and he began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Context… baptized, tempted, then goes back to Nazareth, back to his old church…

Isaiah… Jesus didn’t come out of nowhere… he was Jewish

1. Spirit of the Lord
2. Anointed me
3. Good news to the poor
4. Proclaim freedom for the prisoners
5. Recovery of sight to the blind
6. Release the oppressed
7. Proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor
8. Today… fulfilled…

16–21 He came to Nazareth where he had been reared. As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place. When he stood up to read, he was handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written,

 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 year to act!”

 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.”

Main point… This is God’s year to act!

Poor – way broader than money… at PHS those who are poor in friendship, advantages, family, opportunities (wallet, money, pictures, DL)

Prisoners – freedom from sin and spiritual captivity (tied up)

Blind – those not seeing or receiving the salvation God offers (blinded)

This is God’s year to act!

**This is God’s year to act! Luke 4:14-21**

**Intro:** Presidential debates: lots of promises!

The biggest memory most have from last week’s debate is that Obama will fund Big Bird and Romney will not.

**Trans: Presidents… this is what I will do / Jesus… here is what I will do**

**Bible: Lk 4:14-21**

vv.14-16

 – Like Kendra said last week, Jesus got a start, a fresh start in his baptism

– Jesus goes back to his hometown, to synagogue (church)

– They loved everything he had to say

v.17

– Scroll (a roll) was handed to him (explain), Isaiah written 500y earlier

v. 18

– Like the baptism the Spirit of God, the power God is with Jesus

**1. GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR**

– Broader than money… those at PHS who are poor in

 -Friendship, advantages, family, opportunities

 (SHOW WALLET, money, pictures, cards, DL)

**2. FREEDOM FOR PRISONERS**

 -Freedom from sin and spiritual prison

 (TIE MY OWN HANDS)

**3. RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND**

 -Those not seeing or receiving the salvation God offers

 (PUT ON BLINDED GLASSES)

**4. TO ANNOUNCE “THIS IS GOD’S YEAR TO ACT!”(v.19 MSG)**

THEN TAKE EACH LAYER OFF SHOWING WHAT JESUS CAME TO DO

ME: In high school

1. I didn’t stand out… not much money but not homeless
2. I didn’t know where I stood spiritually
3. I had never truly heard or seen what God wanted for my life
4. But my junior year was God’s year to act!

**Maybe for you, this is your year for God to bring you good news about all that he has for you, for you to know the good news about what God has done about our sin, and for your eyes to be opened like never before**

**Campaigners**

Hand out Bibles to everyone

**Open up**

Q: What kind of promises do politicians always make every time they want to get elected?

Q: What are some big goals people make for school/family/friends/etc?

Q: What is a big promise made to you that someone fulfilled?

Q: What is a big promise make to you that someone did not fulfill?

Q: What do you remember from the talk on Monday?

**Luke 4:14-21**

Read vv. 14-16 (each person one verse)

Q: Jesus had just got started (Lk 3), why do you think the people liked Jesus so much right from the beginning?

Q: What do you think it would have been like for Jesus to go back to his hometown “church”?

Read v. 17, have someone read Isaiah 61:1 and the first line of 61:2.

T: Isaiah was written 500 year before the time of Jesus. This would have been something the church would have read very often for 500 years.

Read v. 18

Q: What do you think it means when Luke says that the Spirit of the Lord is [on Jesus]?

Q: What does good news mean to the poor?

T: “Poor” is not just financial, it is any “advantage” others might not have. Think money, friends, family, opportunities. Maybe ask the previous question again.

Q: What does freedom look like for a prisoner? [this would also include release to the oppressed]

T: This also means spiritual freedom and freedom from sin. Ask again.

Q: How would it feel to have sight restored if you were blind?

T: This also means those who do not see the truth about God, the salvation, love, forgiveness He offers.

Read v. 19

T: In another translation it says, “To announce this is God’s year to act!”

Q: If people had been hearing this for 500 years, what was Jesus announcing to them in a new way on this day?

Read v.20-22

Q: How are these things fulfilled in Jesus?

**Questions for small groups**

Q: Where in your life do you want good news? More freedom? Better spiritual insight?

Q: Based on what God is doing in your life right now how could this be “God’s year to act” for you?