

I. Introduction

- A. *"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; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."* 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. And He began to say to them, *"Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."* (Luke 4:18-21)
- B. Today we wrap up our series on Grace Powered Living. I hope it's messed with your mind and emotions in all the best ways.
- C. Today I want to speak life and hope to you. I want to speak to the part of you that in any way feels poor, brokenhearted, captive, blind, or or bruised.
 - 1. If you carry a wound that limits you.
 - 2. If you carry a trauma that defines you.
 - 3. If you carry a memory that haunts you.
- D. I want you to know today that God the Father has anointed Jesus Christ by the power of God the Holy Spirit to draw near to you, personally. Jesus Christ has been sent to you bring to you good news, healing, recovery, and liberty.
- E. Please think with me today on the topic:

1. The Healing Power of God

II. The Healing Power of God.

- A. I believe in the healing power of God, physically, emotionally, spiritually, relationally, mentally, financially, sexually, personally, interpersonally. In every way you can imagine, the grace of God can saturate a situation and bring supernatural healing to bear.
- B. God can and does heal broken bodies, but he more often heals broken hearts by the power of Jesus Christ.
- C. I'm going to read Isaiah 61:1,2 out loud but leave Luke 4:18-20 on the screen.
 - 1. *"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God..."* (Isaiah 61:1, 2)
- D. The verses are basically identical with a couple of changes which Jesus did on purpose.
- E. The one on the screen was from Isaiah, written 800 years before Christ.
- F. So Luke tells the story of the day Jesus enters the synagogue. He must have been a regular attendee, and a regular teacher there. We know that because they handed him the scroll of Isaiah, and he unrolled to this place and read from it.
 - 1. It turns out Jesus is reading an ancient prophecy of himself.
 - 2. He is reading his own mission statement... found in Isaiah 61, and then adding a line from a previous chapter of Isaiah.
- G. And notice, he leaves off the last line... "and the day of vengeance of our God."
 - 1. This does not mean he is erasing the day of vengeance, because Jesus will have plenty to say about that.
 - 2. He stops here because this part of his message is about the Healing Power of God, which is the alternative to the day of vengeance, and he wants to spotlight that.
- H. When Jesus read the words of Isaiah, he was speaking to women and men who for two thousand years were waiting for a Savior to come.
- I. Jesus read the words, closed the book, looked at the people, and said, "Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing. In other words, he's saying, I'm that guy.
 - 1. I'm that guy who battle the forces of darkness.
 - 2. I'm that guy who will absorb the blows and bullets.
 - 3. I'm that guy who will stand between you and the giants sent to take you down.
- J. So let's see how he does that and how the healing power of God works in our lives.

III. Ways the God's Healing Power Works

A. He proclaims good news to the poor in spirit.

- 1. God loves all people, rich and poor. He has a special tenderness toward those who are poor.
- 2. But this word is not simply financial.
 - a) The root word (*anav*, in Hebrew) means to feel low down, messed up, broken down, and unworthy.
- 3. Jesus said Blessed are the poor in spirit (Matt 5:3).
- 4. And that's what Isaiah meant. Spiritually bankrupt.
- 5. What is he talking about?
 - a) He's talking about people who look to God, and look to their own hearts, and realize deep inside they have nothing to offer God.
 - b) They feel their unworthiness.
 - c) They feel their guilt and shame.
 - d) There's nothing they can boast about, nothing they can be proud of before the infinite demands of God.
 - e) Jesus had a woman thrown at his feet. She had been caught in the very act of sexual sin. Jesus looked up to his heavenly Father. He looked forward to his coming death on the cross. And he looked down at this woman and said "Neither do I condemn you."
 - f) He told a parable of two men who went to the temple. One was boastful and full of pride. The other stood at a distance, eyes downward, and beat his chest, saying "God be merciful to me a sinner."
- 6. This is what it means to be truly poor. Truly poor in spirit.
- 7. The common idea is that Jesus came to bless the very good people, the very religious people, and the very righteous people. We think he came for the best of the best.

8. But he said he came for sinners. He said he came for the poor in spirit. Not to self satisfied. Not the ones who have it all together.
 - a) To be poor in spirit means to admit that you are a sinner in need of a Savior.
 - b) To be poor in spirit needs to admit that you've got nothing to give God. You cannot save yourself.
9. So the Spirit of God anointed Jesus Christ to come to the poor and to preach to them the good news.
10. The good news of an old rugged Cross, of a Savior who died there and shed his blood, so that sins could be forgiven, and guilt erased, and shame washed away.
11. The good news of eternal life, not as a reward for good behavior, but as a free gift for all who believe and receive the Savior.
 - a) **Salvation unlocks the healing power of God for all who humble themselves and receive the Savior.**
12. The healing power of God starts here. You must be born again. You must receive Jesus as your Savior. Because in that moment he heals you from the worst of the worst and sets you up for evermore to experience the best of the best he has to give.

B. He heals the brokenhearted.

1. This is for you if you are discouraged today. This is for you if you are weary. This is for you if you are tired of life, sick of people, even wounded by life or by God.
2. I am standing here to day, to let you know you have, a Friend, Counselor, Savior, and King who heals the brokenhearted.
 - a) Is your heart aching today because you've lost a loved one. He is with you, working, arranging, comforting, healing, even today and right now.
 - b) Are you lonely today... maybe your father abandoned you, or friends are hard to come by, you're always on the outside... or maybe you're waiting and waiting for that certain someone to come along and realize what a treasure you actually are... but it just isn't happening. You see others who seem so happy, but it's just not happening for you... Jesus is with you right now, orchestrating your life to bring the best to you... he will heal your loneliness and bring you to the love you're longing for. Be brave enough and humble enough to follow his leading and trust his wisdom.
 - (1) This is the healing power of God.
 - c) Are you troubled today by the news and the world and the direction of our society and land. Are you upset, and are you afraid? Jesus is the Lord of history. No matter where history goes, he can deliver his finest blessings behind the iron curtain of societal evil to you and your children and their children. He will not let you down.
 - d) Maybe you judge yourself. You struggle with perfectionism. You're paralyzed by the fear of failure, or the fear of other people's opinion. Jesus knows your heart, and his approval of you is so great no one else's approval matters.
 - e) Is your life just depressing? You're not where you want to be. You're not what you want to be. You're not with who you want to be with. There's a dark cloud over your path and a numbing weight in your chest.
 - (1) If you tell Jesus all of your sorrows, you'll begin to see all of his blessings already on the way, coming to break through the clouds and restore your joy.
 - f) **Your Father in Heaven is tender hearted toward the broken hearted.**
3. It makes me sad to think of people who don't have Jesus in their lives. When your heart breaks, where can you turn?
 - a) When the devil attacks, who will protect you?
 - b) When your friends walk away, Jesus walks to you.
 - c) What you call too hard, he calls easy.
 - d) What you call impossible, God calls done.
 - (1) Got any rivers you think are uncrossable?
Got any mountains you can't tunnel through?
God specializes in things thought impossible—
And He can do what no other power do.
(Oscar Eliason, 1914)
4. Return to him, and he will lift the clouds and let the sunshine of grace begin to shine through.

C. He proclaims liberty to captives.

1. The word means a prisoner. Or even a prisoner of war. A captive.
2. Who are today's captives?
3. This is the Bible's way of talking about addiction. That is captivity.
 - a) Drug addiction
 - b) Sex addiction
 - c) Alcohol addiction
 - d) Porn addiction
 - e) Gambling addiction
 - f) Debt addiction
 - g) Despair addiction
4. Jesus declared the Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to proclaim liberty to the captives.
5. The liberty has been won. The prison bars are shattered. Now it's on you to step into freedom every single day by a mature faith that doesn't quit.
 - a) Yes, work your steps, but keep coming to Jesus for the healing power of God.
 - b) Yes, wear that patch, but don't forget to keep coming to Jesus for the healing power of God.
 - c) See your counselor and your therapist, but don't forget to keep seeing Jesus for the healing power of God.
6. Jesus is the great liberator and emancipator. To these who are bound in the shackles, and manacles, and prisons, and bars, and mental palaces of sin, and who live under the heavy yoke of self-inflicted destruction... Jesus has an announcement for you.

- a) All those forces that rule your life, all those forces that make you go where you regret going and do what you regret doing... those dark forces have no power but what you give them.
- b) They've been knocked off their throne.
- c) They are false masters.
- 7. Jesus came, and kicked Satan in the gut, tore open the prison doors, and his truth has set you free.
- 8. I believe that Jesus can free you from your addiction, today.
 - a) I also believe it's far more likely he will lead you through a process to do the same thing, and that process will take some time.

(1) Most of the miracles in your life happen in slow motion.

- (a) And the day you accept that reality is the day you take a giant leap forward in your spiritual maturity.
- 9. But if you are willing to step out in faith and claim your freedom today, you can get started.
 - a) Lord, you've proclaimed liberty to captives, and I've been captive to... [blank]. I claim that freedom and own that freedom today. Lord, I believe, help my unbelief.
 - (1) That is a legit prayer to pray every day and every moment you feel sucked in.
- 10. Because when Jesus died on the cross and rose again, he crushed every dark force that holds you in chains, and he wants to make that real in your life starting today.

D. He brings recovery of sight to the spiritually blind.

- 1. Can Jesus Christ heal blind people? Yes, he can, he has, and he will. He can heal any physical problem any day of the week. Scripture is full of this. But physical is not the focus.
- 2. Because Jesus came, lived, loved, served, taught, died, rose again, ascended to heaven, and is going to come again, because he wanted to change our focus from miracles that transform a lifetime to miracles that transform eternity.
- 3. This word blind can refer to physical blindness, but more often refers to spiritual blindness. It means "freed from the darkness of a dungeon" (Bengel).
- 4. When Jesus met a hater named Saul, and changed his name to Paul, Jesus gave his life a new mission statement: Jesus sent him to the world...
 - a) *'to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'* (Acts 26:18)
- 5. It is spiritual blindness that breaks a heart.
 - a) Spiritual blindness keeps you in intellectual darkness... you can't tell truth from error, red pill from blue pill, reality from deceit.
 - b) Spiritual blindness keeps you unable to turn to God... because you are in denial over how far away you actually are from him.
 - c) Spiritual blindness keeps you morally confused... so that what you call right, God calls wrong and what you call wrong God calls right...
 - (1) Morality is how we coexist without hurting each other.
 - (a) Moses said to love your neighbor, and Jesus quoted him.
 - (b) But spiritual blindness is moral confusion, and moral confusion is how you break your neighbor's heart.
 - d) Spiritual blindness keeps a person from the forgiveness of sins, locked in a psychology of guilt and shame.
 - e) Spiritual blindness keeps a person from their inheritance, which means it locks you out of the full experience of the transcendent life God has for you, and traps you in a one dimensional life this messed up world offers you. Your values are upside down, and you're looking for love and looking for life in all the wrong places.
- 6. The greatest need in the world today is the recovery of spiritual sight so that we see the truth as God sees it...
- 7. With all the love and compassion I have in my heart I announce this truth today:
 - a) The greatest source of the healing power of God is waiting for you in the pages of the Holy Scriptures.**
- 8. You will not experience the healing power of God until you see the truth as God sees it, and you will not see the truth as God sees it without the recovery of spiritual sight from your blindness...
 - a) And that requires us all to see the world the Bible-colored lenses. There is no other way.
- 9. When Jesus went into the temple and taught the Word of God, he opened the Bible, read the Bible, and explained the Bible. That is the only way to escape deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons over and over again.
- 10. His sermon was...
 - a) Not a self-help talk.
 - b) Not a pep rally.
 - c) Not a comedy show.
 - d) Not a string of stories to manipulate and twist the emotions.
 - e) Not a soothing bedtime story to make everyone feel good.
 - f) Not a long ramble with casual references to random Bible verses whose meaning is so distorted not even God can make sense of it.
 - (1) All of these things leave a person blinded in spiritual and intellectual darkness.
 - (2) And yet that is what we see in church after church.
 - (a) We measure sermons by how entertaining they are.
 - (b) God measures them by how true they are.
 - (c) We need a new reformation to bring us back to the Bible.
 - (d) Back to the Bible in its fulness and depth.

11. Every message Jesus delivered was straight up Bible verses plus straight up interpretation based on the plain meaning of the words in their context as intended by the original author.
 - a) That is the rarest commodity in the church today.
 - b) And that is why so much of the American church is so confused and so deluded today, which is why our whole culture is so trapped in darkness. Because darkness is appealing. But there's a monster lurking there waiting to wound you.
 - c) As goes the church, so goes the world.
12. Jesus proclaims the recovery of sight to the blind.
13. Open your Bible and let the Spirit of God use the Sword of the Word to cut away the blindness that creates so much pain in your life.

E. Jesus sets free all who feel shattered, crushed, and bruised.

1. To set at liberty those who are crushed or shattered. This line comes from Isaiah 58:6 (LXX).
2. Jesus is reading from the scroll of Isaiah in chapter 61, and he rolls back a little to bring in chapter 58.
3. It's the capstone on the Healing Power of God.
4. The word means "broken in pieces." Or it can mean "crushed." Some translations say bruised.
5. Some of you are here today with a bruise on your soul.
 - a) The river of God's grace flows most powerfully through your deepest sorrows and deepest pains.**
6. This is the healing power of God for someone overwhelmed by the pain of life, overwhelmed by relationships that are abusive, overwhelmed by illness, overwhelmed by more responsibilities and duties than you can bear, overwhelmed by whatever kind of troubles life can bring to bear
7. Jesus was talking to you when he said, "Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."
 - a) The most oppressive being in the world is Satan.
 - b) And the most oppressive force in the world is sin.
8. Only our Lord Jesus Christ, crucified and risen again—only HE can undo the great oppressor named Satan and wash away the vast weight of sin.

IV. Conclusion

- A. Jesus ended his Scripture reading with the words, "To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."
 1. He is saying that the healing power of God can go to work in you right now. It starts with the gospel and being saved, and then never stops. You don't have to wait for his second coming.
- B. His second coming in glory is going to take a while. Jesus will come again.
- C. But his healing power, and his saving power, is for today.
- D. Does some one say in their heart, "I would like to be a Christian, I would like to know the healing power of Jesus, but I'm afraid the time has not come yet. I don't feel the moving of the Spirit. I'm not certain that I would be welcome."
- E. That is an illusion of the enemy. God's time is now. Jesus said so. He said...
 1. "Now is the accepted time."
 2. "Come now, and let us reason together...though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."
 3. "Today if you will hear His voice, do not harden your heart."
- F. The healing power of God can begin in your life and your soul, even today. Call out to him, and just ask.
- G. I'm going to pray and ask God to work his healing in our lives. While I pray, our worship team will come out for one more song. Please remain seated after that, as I'd like to finish our time then.