

Luke 4. 14 – 21

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

When he 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, and scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘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.
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

And 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. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

Note for Preachers:

Jesus’s cradle of ethical life was the synagogue: congregation of prayer and hearing and interpreting the marvellous Torah, definition of God-given freedom. Here he is unrolling the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and taking to himself the One Covenant, proclaiming the eternal ‘now’, the year of the Lord’s favour: ‘the release of captives, the recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free’. Every recital of the unique Covenant is a new (renewed) testament, when it is understood and written on the fleshy tablets of the heart. Jesus speaks to the entire human person, who is part of a reforming communion. The perpetually renewed Covenant of justice and mercy affirms all life and opposes the destruction of life.