



A Return to the Beginning

Luke 4:14-21

Luke 4:14-16

And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district. And He began teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all. And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read.

Luke 4:17-19

And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him.

And He opened the book and found the place
where it was written,

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor.
He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives,
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set free those who are oppressed,
To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.”*

Luke 4:20-21

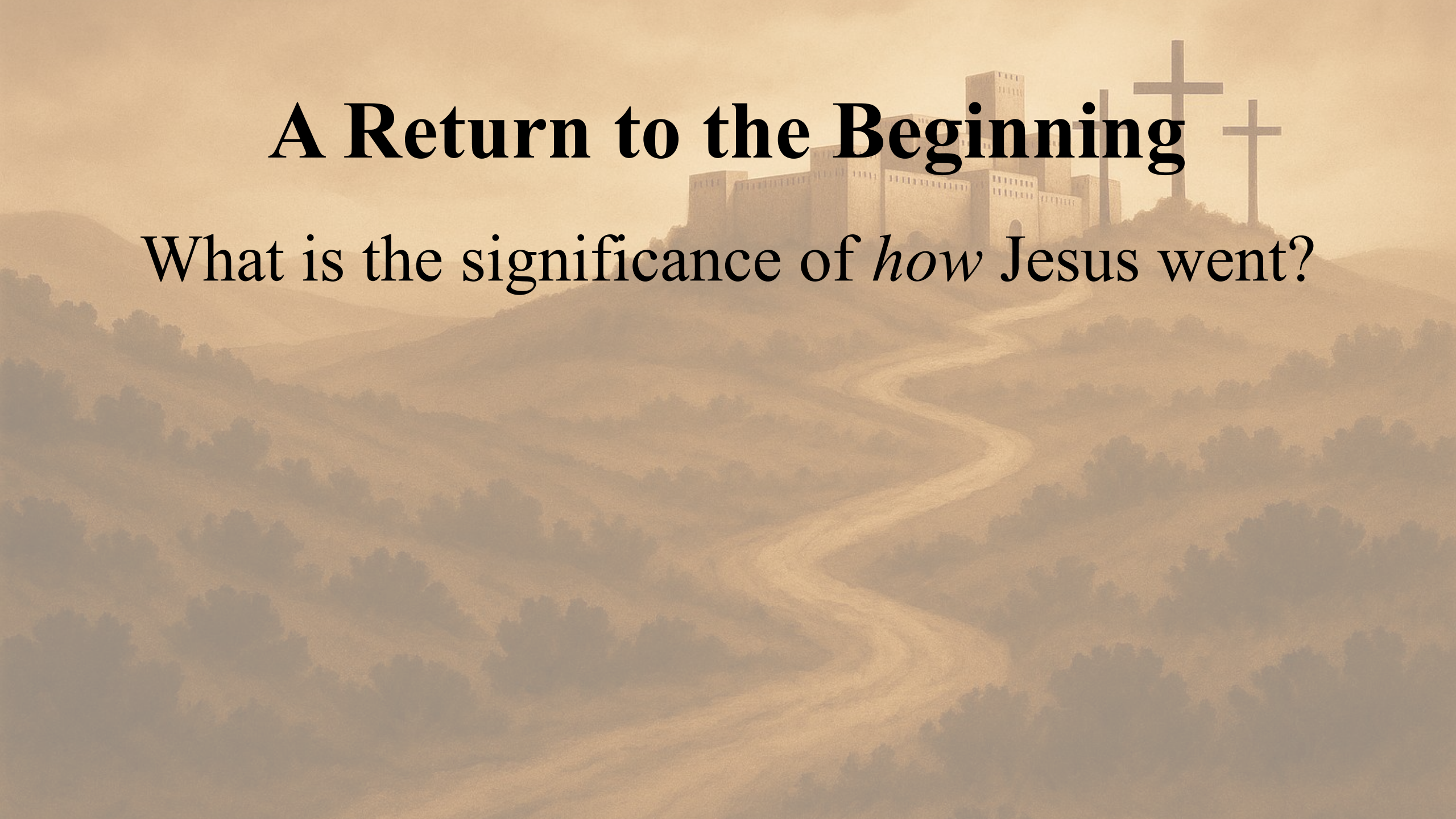
And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Main Point

In the power of the Holy Spirit,
Jesus returned to where it began
in order to begin His work
to restore all things.

A Return to the Beginning

What is the significance of *how* Jesus went?



Luke 4:14

And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit.

Luke 4:14

And Jesus returned to Galilee **in the power of the Spirit.**

Isaiah 11:1-2

Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse,
And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.
The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him,
The spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The spirit of counsel and strength,
The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

Acts 10:38

You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how **God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power**, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Acts 2:22

“Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, **a man attested to you by God** with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know...”

God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and sent Him out in the power of the Spirit to testify to His identity as the Messiah, the promised One.

But this also points to the power of the Spirit in us, not to perform miracles, but to grow in the holiness of the truth.

A Return to the Beginning

The background features a sepia-toned illustration of a walled city or fortress situated on a hill. To the right of the city, three crosses of varying heights are visible against the sky. A winding path or road leads from the foreground up towards the city. The overall atmosphere is historical and contemplative.

What is the significance of how Jesus went?

What is the significance of *where* Jesus went?

The significance of where Jesus went

He returned to Galilee and went to Nazareth.



Luke 4:14-16

And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit,
and news about Him spread through all
the surrounding district...and He came to Nazareth,
where He had been brought up;

Luke 4:14-16

And **Jesus returned to Galilee** in the power of the Spirit,

and news about Him spread through all
the surrounding district...and He came to Nazareth,
where He had been brought up;

Isaiah 9:1-2

But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish;
in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun
and the land of Naphtali with contempt,
but later on He shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea,
on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.

The people who walk in darkness

Will see a great light;

Those who live in a dark land,

The light will shine on them.

Isaiah 9:1-2

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in earlier times **He treated the land of *Zebulun*
and the land of *Naphtali* with contempt,**

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The people who walk in darkness

Will see a great light;

Those who live in a dark land,

The light will shine on them.

The Assyrians began their campaign to conquer the Northern Kingdom of Israel in the region of Galilee and then repopulated it with Gentiles.

Jesus returned to where God's judgment had begun as the great Light of restoration that God had promised.

Luke 4:14-16

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Luke 4:28-29

And all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage
as they heard these things; and they got up and drove Him out
of the city and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their
city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff.

John 1:11

He came to His own, and those who were His own
did not receive Him.

Luke placed this account at the beginning
to locate Jesus at the beginning
and to set the stage for the end.

The significance of where Jesus went

He returned to Galilee and went to Nazareth.

He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath.



Luke 4:15-16

And He began teaching in their synagogues...
and He came to Nazareth...and as was His custom,
He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath,
and stood up to read.

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and stood up to read.

The synagogue had become the place of authority and teaching, and Jesus took His place there as the authoritative Teacher.

But He also begins here because He begins with His own just as Paul would begin with the Jews first.

John 1:11

He came to His own, and those who were His own
did not receive Him.

A Return to the Beginning

The background is a sepia-toned landscape. A winding dirt path leads from the bottom center towards a large, multi-story building on a hill. To the right of the building, three crosses of varying heights are visible on the hillside. The overall atmosphere is historical and contemplative.

What is the significance of how Jesus went?

What is the significance of where Jesus went?

What is the significance of what Jesus *read*?

Luke 4:17-19

And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him.

And He opened the book and found the place
where it was written,

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor.
He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives,
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set free those who are oppressed,
To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.”*

The significance of what Jesus read

The prophet



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And the book of **the prophet Isaiah** was handed to Him.

Isaiah is the “evangelical prophet.”

Jesus is the Evangel!

The significance of what Jesus read

The prophet

The people



Luke 4:18-19

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To set free ***those who are oppressed,***

To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.”

These categories most clearly represent those who are in need and see their need.

Luke 6:20

Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

The significance of what Jesus read

The prophet

The people

The promise



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God had promised a “year” of Jubilee,
a time for the restoration of righteousness,
and Jesus came to inaugurate it.

A Return to the Beginning

The background of the slide features a sepia-toned landscape. In the upper right, a large stone castle or fortress sits atop a hill. To the right of the castle, three crosses of varying heights are visible against the sky. A dirt road winds through a forested valley in the foreground, leading towards the castle. The overall atmosphere is historical and contemplative.

What is the significance of how Jesus went?

What is the significance of where Jesus went?

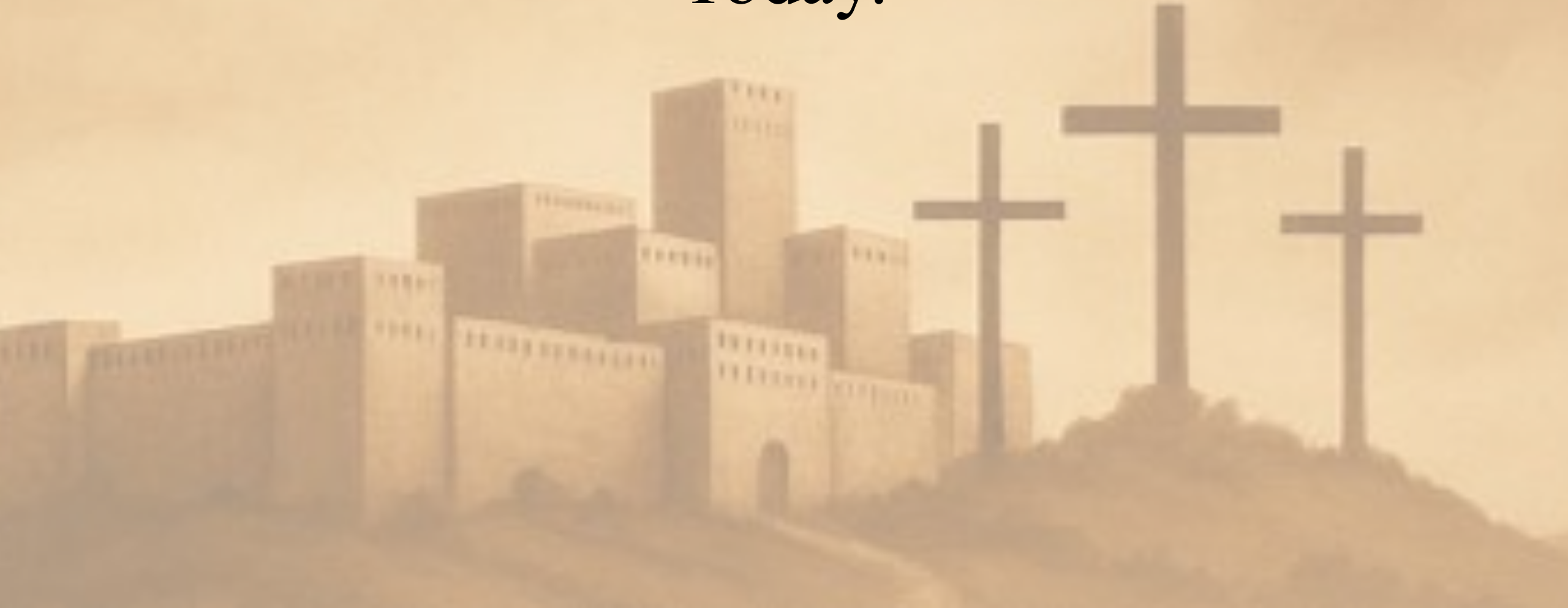
What is the significance of what Jesus read?

What is the significance of what Jesus *said*?

Luke 4:20-21

And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The significance of what Jesus said Today.



Luke 4:21

“Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Implications of “Today”

Right now, Isaiah words are being fulfilled.

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Implications of “Today”

Right now, Isaiah words are being fulfilled.

Today the new promised age begins.

Isaiah 52:6-7

Therefore My people shall know My name;
therefore in that day I am the one who is speaking,
“Here I am.”

*How lovely on the mountains
Are the feet of him who brings good news,
Who announces peace
And brings good news of happiness,
Who announces salvation,
And says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”*

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And says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”*

**“He has sent me...
To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.”**

Implications of “Today”

Right now, Isaiah words are being fulfilled.

Today the new promised age begins.

Now is the time of decision.

Joshua 24:15

“Choose for yourselves **today** whom you will serve.”

2 Corinthians 6:2

*“At the acceptable time I listened to you,
and on the day of salvation I helped you.”*

Behold, **now** is *“The acceptable time,”*

behold, **now** is *“The day of salvation.”*

Today is the day to choose!

The significance of what Jesus said

Today.

This has been fulfilled in your hearing.



Luke 4:21

“Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Luke 4:21

“Today **this Scripture *has been fulfilled*** in
your hearing.”

Though this was the beginning,
the end was already secured.

Luke 4:21

“Today **this Scripture *has been fulfilled*** in
your hearing.”

Luke 4:21

“Today **this Scripture has been fulfilled**
in your hearing.”

“*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,*
*Because **He anointed Me to preach** the gospel to the poor.*

***He has sent Me to proclaim** release to the captives,*

*And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set free those who are oppressed,*

***To proclaim** the favorable year of the Lord.”*

Romans 10:17

So faith comes from hearing,
and hearing by the word of Christ.

Jesus came to proclaim the gospel, and the faith that God uses as the instrument of our salvation comes to us when we hear and respond to the gospel.

For Reflection

Jesus came for the poor – **is that you?**

Jesus proclaims liberty to the captives –
have you heard and received it?

In His humanity, Jesus walked in
the power of the Holy Spirit – **are you?**