

## **THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES FREEDOM**

Luke 4 v16-37

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

Question 1: in what sense does the same Spirit give the same message with the same power as Jesus?

### **1. HOPE**

(v18) "...he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor."

(Deuteronomy 15 v7) "If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, 8 but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be. 9 Take care lest there be an unworthy thought in your heart and you say, 'The seventh year, the year of release is near', and your eye look grudgingly on your poor brother, and you give him nothing, and he cry to the Lord against you, and you be guilty of sin. 10 You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. 11 For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'"

Question 2: Does God want us to prosper financially?

(Luke 6:20-21)

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.'

Question 3: What sacrifices does discipleship involve?

(Luke 12:16-21)

Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.'

Question 4: Apart from being a saver not a spender, what does this man do wrong?

(Matthew 25:34-36)

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

Question 5: Why do these small acts of kindness generate such great reward?

(Mark 10:21-22)

Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Question 6: What is wrong with this young man's life?

## **2. SIGHT**

(v18) "... recovering of sight to the blind"

Question 7: Looking back, has God ever opened your eyes spiritually to see things in a new way?

## **3. FREEDOM**

(v19) "....to set at liberty those who are oppressed"

Question 8: What things cause us to be oppressed today?

## **A PRAYER**

Loving Lord, thank you that you were anointed by the Spirit to bring hope, sight and freedom. May I too be anointed by that same Spirit to experience whichever of these gifts I most need today. In a moment of quiet, I bring before you my personal need for hope/sight or freedom (silence). Now Lord, help me bear witness to your power in this world, so that where ever there is despair, I will bring your hope, wherever there is blindness I will bring light and wherever there is oppression, I will bring freedom, for the sake of your Son, and in the power of your Spirit, Amen,