

## Sermon Outline

### *Hometown Boy Makes Good: Shockingly Good News for the World!*

Luke 4:14-21 (v.22-30)

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

“There’s no place like home.” In *The Wizard of Oz* Dorothy was simply saying what we all know – there is a certain comfort and joy in the company of our community of nurture, an attachment that is never broken, and a desire to return there when we have gone away. Luke’s Gospel is filled with journeys back home, and begins and ends with two such journeys– Joseph to his ancestral home of Bethlehem, and Jesus ascending to the Father in heaven. But here we find Jesus returning to his home town of Nazareth, entering the synagogue he’d known all those silent years; but he will be silent no more. What’s more, while he’d been away the news about the hometown boy had spread far and wide: he was a gifted preacher and teacher; a powerful prophet. They could hardly wait to hear from him, and after he read from Isaiah that day “the eyes of all were fixed on him” in eager anticipation. Maybe they, too, would see a miracle. They could not have imagined what they were about to hear.

#### I. **Shocking!** – “**Today!**”

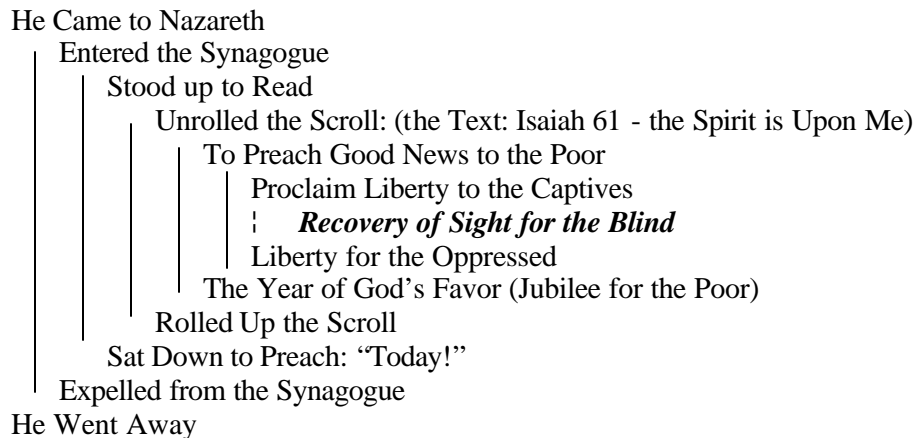
? No longer “*Some day* brothers and sisters...”

? It stands fulfilled right now

#### II. **Shocking!** – “**Recovery of Sight for the Blind**”

A. The chiasm points us to the heart of the passage (v.14-30)

? Israel is Impoverished, in Exile, Blind, Oppressed, and Enslaved: they are gazing at him, but they cannot see.



B. The heart of the passage points us to the mission of Jesus

1. It takes place in the power of the Spirit

\* It still does – 1 Corinthians 12; Acts 1:5-8

2. It is characterized by Gospel Preaching that Liberates:

- The poor
- The exiles
- The blind

“Whom the Son sets free is free indeed.” – John 8

#### III. **Shocking!** – **Salvation for the World**

? Not the Good News they were expecting: suddenly their “Amen!” was turned to dismay, and then to anger and wrath. Why?

? The new Elijah and Elisha: confronting unfaithful Israel and healing the Gentiles

#### IV. **Shocking!** – “**Today**” Still Stands

? We are as blind and impoverished and oppressed and held captive as any generation

? And one mark of our blindness is that we hear Jesus speak and we think he’s talking about somebody else, somewhere other than here, sometime other than “today.”

? But “Today is the Day of Salvation...”: 2 Corinthians 6:2

? John 1:12