



## Life Group Study Notes

### "Anointed"

Ps. James Lowe - February 5, 2017

#### Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What is something that you like to do and are good at doing?
- What is something that you like to do and wish you were better at doing?
- What is something that you like to do, but are not so good at doing?

#### Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at [www.bethelworld.org](http://www.bethelworld.org).

1. Jesus is our great anointed minister.
2. We need to accept our call to minister.
3. We need to receive Jesus' manifold anointing so that we can minister effectively.

Luke 4:16-21 ESV *And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the 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 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, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll and 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."*

- Jesus claimed that he was the long awaited leader of Israel who had been promised by God's prophets from long ago. God had promised that he would send one who would deliver Israel from their sin and would become the source of salvation for the nations of the world.
- Jesus claimed that he was anointed, or empowered and enabled, by the same Holy Spirit who had come upon Israel's great judges and prophets and kings. They did great exploits for God and his people because of the wisdom and power of God's Spirit who was with them. Scripture tells us that Jesus had the Spirit without measure more than all who had come before him. He had unlimited access to the fullness of the Spirit's help.
- Jesus came to bring the fullness of God's salvation for the world. When God delivered Israel out of Egypt, he revealed himself to the people through Moses and Aaron. The people learned to receive God's forgiveness and learned how to walk in God's ways. But God did not leave the people in Egypt under oppression. He brought holistic salvation, not just spiritual deliverance. He also delivered them from social, political, and economic oppression. The prophets spoke through the centuries about God's plan to eventually do for all the nations what he did for Israel, and that he would do it through his appointed, Spirit-empowered king who would one day rule the whole earth. Jesus is that Messiah.

Isaiah 61:4-7 ESV *They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks; foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers; but you shall be called the priests of the Lord; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast. Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion; instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot; therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion; they shall have everlasting joy.*

- These verses are part of the passage in the prophet, Isaiah, that Jesus quoted from in the synagogue at Nazareth. They speak of the people who would be ministered to by the Messiah. They are the ones who have experienced deliverance and the Lord's favor. If you have come to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that he died for our sins and rose again from the dead, that he ascended to heaven and is going to come again, you have experienced a measure of God's riches, for you have been forgiven of all your sins and are adopted into God's family.
- These people are called to make a difference in this world. They are called to be ministers of God, bringing restoration and renewal to the world around them. God's people are called to be God's witnesses through words and actions, laboring to reconcile people to God and to bring about God's justice and righteousness with mercy and compassion here on earth. We are the ones who are called to do this.
- The people who have experienced God's deliverance and who give themselves to be his witnesses will be blessed. God promises to crown them with joy and fill them with confidence. He promises to bless them materially and relationally, so much so that they will be attractive even to those who do not yet know or serve him. We can and should trust God to do this for us in measures as we follow him with all our hearts wherever he may lead us, being willing to do whatever he would ask of us.

#### **Discussion (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related point for discussion.**

- How has God blessed you?
- What do you believe God has called you to do to bring his salvation to this world?
- Who are some people you are hoping to lead into a relationship with Jesus?

#### **Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Thank God for the riches of his salvation given us in Jesus.
- Ask God to give you clarity into some of the specific deeds he wants you to do in order to advance his kingdom on earth.
- Ask God to bless you richly in many ways according to his great promises given us in the Bible.