



**“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”**

***-Luke 4:18-19***

We now enter the third section, entitled “Messiah,” which represents the stories of Jesus found in the four gospels. The first foundational verse in this section is Jesus’ offensive declaration that he is the Messiah that the Jews had been waiting for. He says that his purpose is to bring freedom to those who are imprisoned. We must understand that WE are the ones he’s talking about. We are all in bondage in some way. We are all in need of freedom from addictions, habits and blind spots that hold us back.

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## Reflection:

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## Questions:

1. What first comes to your mind when you hear the word “freedom”? How is our current understanding of the word different than Jesus’ understanding?
2. Have you ever had a notable experience with a mission statement – perhaps at work or at a business you interacted with? Do you find them helpful or just a useless exercise?
3. In Luke 4:18-19, Jesus talks about the poor, the prisoners, the blind and the oppressed. Should this be taken literally or is this figurative language?
4. Do you think Jesus is talking about “them” or do you truly see yourself in this list? Which of the four words (poor, imprisoned, blind, oppressed) best connects with you?
5. In what area(s) of your life do you still need freedom? What part of your life still seems to have control over you?
6. Jesus doesn’t initiate freedom; he proclaims it! What can you do this week that is different? Is there a trusted friend who knows about this stronghold in your life? What steps are you taking to break free?