

Well this week we move on to the next section of our scripture journey, the “**Commission**” of Jesus. We are moving along with the memory work, I hope it is blessing you as you give yourself over to learning God’s Word. Let’s jump in!

### **Isaiah 61:1**

This is one of my favorite passages of scripture and it gives us rich insight concerning the work of Christ in us and for us. Although spoken by Isaiah, it is as if Jesus Himself were speaking. He begins with a statement that tells us the LORD has anointed him to...

That is why we are calling this section of our memory work the “**Commission**”. God literally commissioned Jesus to come to earth on our behalf. He anointed Him for a certain work, to accomplish great things for His people. Jesus is very clear about why He has come.

In verse one He says He has been anointed to “**preach good news to the poor**”. We should ask, what kind of “poor” is He talking about? Is it the physically poor or the spiritually poor? I would say both. Whether we are poor in spirit or poor physically, we need to hear good news. Jesus can bring the riches of His spirit and His provision in our lives. We can think of what He did on the earth, providing physically for people, food and wine and protection... I think of the feeding of the 5 thousand, the healings, the wine at the wedding of Cana, the rescuing of the woman caught in adultery. He reached out to those that were poor physically. He also brought good news to all of mankind who were poor in Spirit. He preached it through words and the way that He lived. He let us know the good news of salvation!

In verse one, He also says, “**He sent me to bind up the brokenhearted.**” I love this about Jesus. His compassion shines forth as He interacts with people. He can’t walk by someone who has a broken heart and not touch them, not bind up their wounds. I personally have experienced Him taking my burdened, broken heart and giving me a fresh perspective or a touch from His hand that makes all the difference. He is so good!

In verse one He also says, “**to proclaim freedom for the captives**”. I believe this is the spiritually captive. That is why He came. It is a horrible thing to be held in the captivity of sin. To be so bound by it that you feel powerless to make a change. I know I have been there and at times still find myself in a sin pattern, feeling captive to it. Jesus didn’t just come to set us toward heaven, but to give us an abundant life for now, to experience freedom from the patterns of sin in our lives. I personally find this part of His commission to be very good news and I have experienced His freedom and long for more of it in my life.

I love the last phrase of verse one, “**and release from darkness for the prisoners**”. You see, He doesn’t just set us free, He gives us understanding so that we can walk out of the darkness of the captivity and walk in the light. If He only broke us free from the captivity of sin we would more than likely return to it. This part of the verse speaks particularly to the heart of our ministry at Established Footsteps. You see when we get in the Word and begin to gain understanding about the reality of sin, Jesus shows us the darkness and shows us how to walk in the light. I am thinking in particular about a sin pattern that Jesus delivered me from many years ago. I struggled for years with it. But once I got in the Word, I saw the ugliness of it, I saw it in its dark state and I wanted to run to the light. I am no longer tempted in that area any more. As Jesus has taught me Truth in His Word, Jesus has released me from darkness. Praise the Lord!

This “**Commission**” passage will be a rich with the benefits of knowing Jesus. I ask you today, are you experiencing the benefits? God commissioned Him on your behalf to make these things a reality in your life. So how about a reality check today:

Have you received His good news for any poor places in your life?  
Have you allowed Him to bind up the places where your heart is broken?  
Have you been released from the captivity of sin?  
Have you walked out of darkness and into His light?

His presence in your life is there for all that and more. Seek Him today for these things, He willingly came to bring them into your life!

Because of Him,  
Sharon