



## Daily Verse and Comment

### [Luke 4:16-19](#)

(16) And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. (17) And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, (18) The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, (19) To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

*King James Version*

The [Sabbath](#) is so significant that [Jesus'](#) ministry formally began on a Sabbath and ended on a preparation day just before another Sabbath ([John 19:31](#))! We see Him open His ministry in [Luke 4:16-19](#), where He gives His mission statement. By quoting [Isaiah 61:1-2](#) in His inaugural sermon, Jesus identifies His mission as setting people free from bondage. He specifically mentions freeing the poor (weak, without power), brokenhearted, captive, blind, and oppressed.

"The acceptable year of the LORD" is not when [God](#) is acceptable to us, but when God, in His sovereign mercy, moves to make us acceptable to Him. It is a time when He chooses to deliver people. More specifically, it refers to two [Old Testament](#) institutions, either the seventh year [land Sabbath](#) or the Jubilee year. Israelites considered these years liberators of the oppressed. During them, the land lay fallow and what food it produced on its own went to the poor, dispossessed, and animals. Slaves were freed and debts remitted. During Jubilee years, debtors received back their land lost due to mismanagement.

Jesus says in verse 21, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." It was a Sabbath, and through the typology, Christ is clearly showing that His redemptive mission included the liberating intent of the Sabbaths, weekly and annual. In [Mark 2:27](#), Jesus says, "The Sabbath was made for man." God made it to equip us to come out of spiritual slavery—and even more so, to help us in staying out.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

**To learn more, see:**

**[The Fourth Commandment \(Part Two\): Christ's Attitude Toward the Sabbath](#)**

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