

<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

<sup>18</sup> “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,  
<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

<sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” <sup>22</sup> And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” <sup>23</sup> And he said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Physician, heal yourself.’ What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.” <sup>24</sup> And he said, “Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. <sup>25</sup> But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, <sup>26</sup> and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. <sup>27</sup> And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.” <sup>28</sup> When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. <sup>29</sup> And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. <sup>30</sup> But passing through their midst, he went away.

- Luke 4:16-30 (ESV)

“The Bible is a book devoted to justice in the world from first to last. And the Bible gives us not just a naked call to care about justice, but gives us everything we need – motivation, guidance, inner joy, and power – to live a just life.”

- Timothy Keller

*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;*

<sup>5</sup> *Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks;  
foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers;*

<sup>6</sup> *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.*

<sup>7</sup> *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. - Isaiah 61: 1-2, 5-7 (ESV)*

### Small Group or Personal Reflection Questions

1. When in your life should you have “stayed in your lane?” Is there a time you wished you would have risked changing lanes?
2. When is the last time you sacrificed time or money to help someone in need? (I said sacrificed, not “left-over’s.”) Was that person a friend, relative, acquaintance? When is the last time you sacrificed time or money to help a stranger?
3. Do you feel like you are currently experiencing the favor of God?

### Book Recommendations for “Reclaiming Justice” Series

- Timothy Keller, *Generous Justice: How God’s Grace Makes Us Just.*
- Gary A. Haugen, *Just Courage: God’s Great Expedition for the Restless Christian*
- Richard Stearns, *The Hole in Our Gospel: What Does God Expect of Us? The Answer that Changed My Life and Might Just Change the World.*