



HELPING HEARTS THAT ARE **OPPRESSED**

Luke 4:16-30

The Gospel of Luke triumphantly shows Jesus as the friend of sinners, outcasts and those not liked. Curing lepers, making Samaritans the heroes of parables and inviting himself to the home of a chief tax collector shows that Jesus cared. He cared for people that no one else would. Multiple times Jesus turned the thinking of the multitudes upside down by showing the lifestyle of the rich and famous did not impress God.

A. Our lesson today focuses upon the theme of Oppression

1. Much too often history has told the story of the rich and powerful taking advantage of the poor
The oppression of lords in Europe led to the Peasant Wars.
The oppression of colonists in New England led to the American Revolution

What other words express the idea of oppression?

Where is oppression often experienced?

- oppression is a m_____ of p_____ and p_____
- oppression thrives on f_____ and i_____
- the oppressed are afraid to t_____ and feel they are in a h_____ situation

B. Jesus returns home to Nazareth (Luke 4:16-30)

- This is found only in Luke's Gospel
 1. Jesus connects a prophecy from Isaiah about the Messiah to Himself, thus claiming that He is the Messiah
 - (a) The prophecy states that the Messiah would set free those who were oppressed (18)
 - for the Jew, they were thinking: _____
 - Jesus was thinking: _____

God is a friend to the oppressed

Ps 9:9 The Lord is a _____ for the oppressed

Ps 146:7 God executes _____ for the oppressed

Oppression in the Bible

1. God prophesied about Israel's oppression in Egypt (Gen 15:13; Ex 3:9)
2. Lot felt his soul oppressed (2 Pet 2:7)
3. Canaanites oppressed Israel (Judges 4:3)

2. Jesus anticipates that they will want to see some miracles (24)
 - there had been the water to wine miracle at Cana and the healing of the nobleman's son in Capernaum
3. Jesus tells the stories of Elijah and Elisha (25-28)
 - both helped Gentiles and not Jews
 - that thought enraged the Jewish crowd so much that they tried to kill Jesus
4. The Jews were oppressed by t_____, e_____ and fear of c_____

What are the characteristics of a work place bully?

What help is there for one who is intimidated?