

# JESUS AND THOSE IN NEED



Lesson 7 for August 17, 2019

The ministry of Jesus was related to those in need since its beginning.

The prophecies about Jesus foretold that He would work close to the oppressed, the poor and the sick.

Jesus was also oppressed, and He died unjustly to help those in need (i.e. us), and to deliver us from the oppressive yoke of sin.

### ➤➤➤ HIS MISSION

- Announced by Mary
- Announced by Jesus

### ➤➤➤ HIS MINISTRY

- Helping those in need
- The prophet of those in need

### ➤➤➤ HIS SACRIFICE

- Dying for those in need



# THE MISSION OF JESUS (1)

“He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly.” (Luke 1:52)



Elizabeth called Mary "blessed" (Luke 1:45). Then, Mary was filled with the Holy Spirit and sang a prophetic song (v. 46-55).

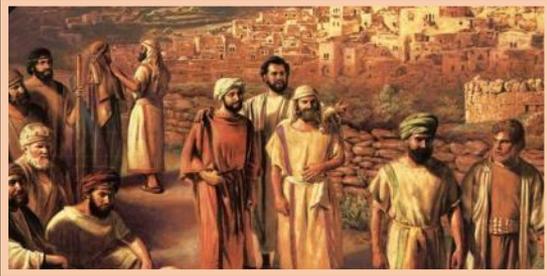
He praised God for what He had done for her (v. 46-48), and for His power, love and justice to everyone (v. 49-51).

She then announced the kingdom of the Messiah (v. 52-55). He would care for:

- The lowly (v. 52)*
- The hungry (v. 53)*
- The oppressed (v. 54)*

This kingdom could be called the “upside-down kingdom”. In this kingdom, the powerful and wealthy of this world are the least, and the poor and oppressed are liberated, “filled,” and lifted up.

# THE MISSION OF JESUS (2)



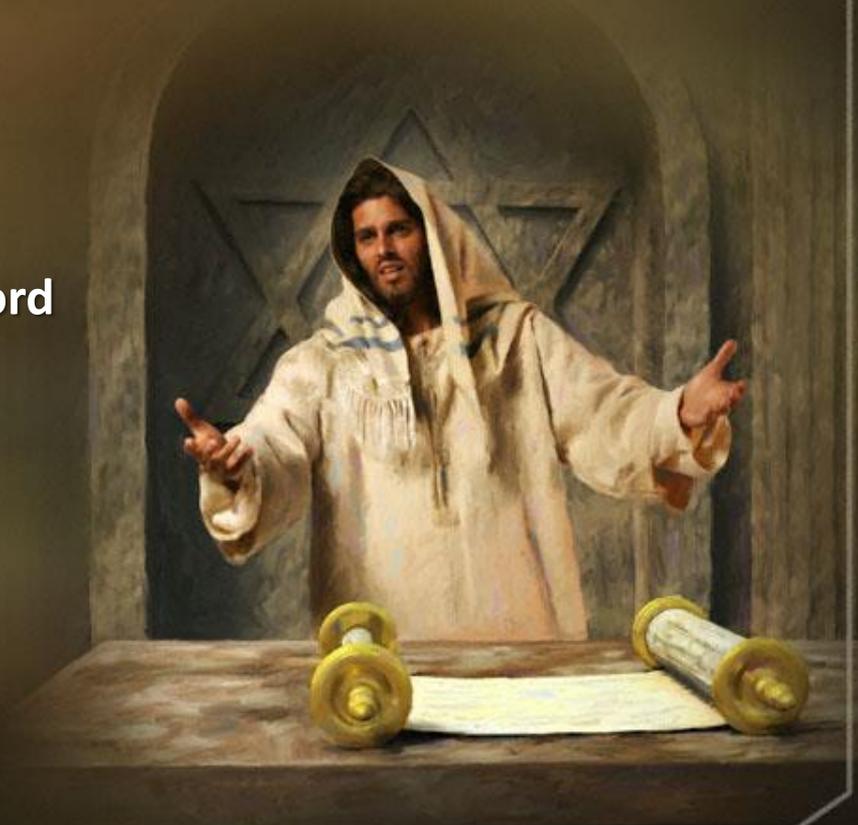
"And He began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.'" (Luke 4:21)

Jesus read Isaiah 61:1-2 at Nazareth's synagogue. This was his mission statement:

- Give good news to the poor
- Heal the brokenhearted
- Proclaim liberty to the captives
- Open the eyes of the blind
- Open the prison of the bound
- Proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord

Jesus' mission was both spiritual and practical. Taking physical care of those in need was the tangible part of Jesus' care for their spiritual health.

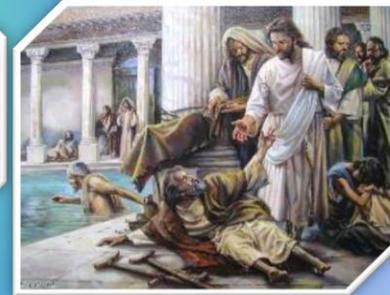
Jesus encouraged His disciples to act the same way He did (Matthew 10:8).



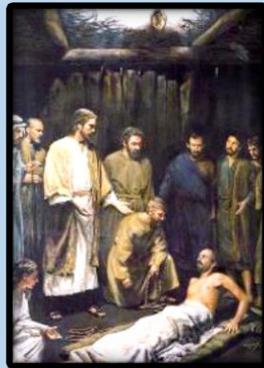
# HELPING THOSE IN NEED

“And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.” (Matthew 14:14)

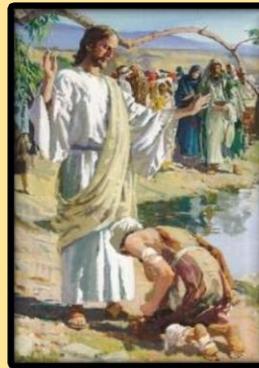
Jesus liberated the captives from illness, even if they had been sick for 12, 18 or 38 years.



The blind saw



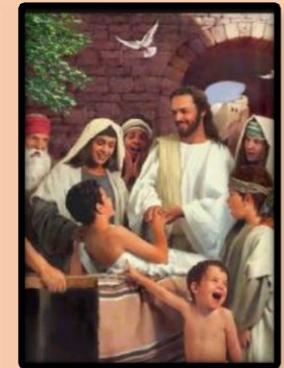
The lame walked



The lepers were healed



Demons were expelled



The dead were resurrected

The healing power of the Holy Spirit through Jesus was evident, but Jesus didn't use miracles to attract more followers. Jesus always tried to keep a low profile (Mark 1:44; 8:26).

He healed people because He loved them, and He wanted to lead them to eternal life.

**“Jesus was not satisfied to attract attention to Himself merely as a wonder-worker or as a healer of physical disease. He was seeking to draw men to Him as their Saviour. While the people were eager to believe that He had come as a king to establish an earthly reign, He desired to turn their minds from the earthly to the spiritual. Mere worldly success would interfere with His work.”**

# THE PROPHET OF THOSE IN NEED

“So the multitudes said, 'This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.'” (Matthew 21:11)



As the old prophets did, Jesus acted harshly against those who had turned the Temple into a market.

They were setting high prices to the sacrifices that symbolized the free atoning substitute death of Jesus.

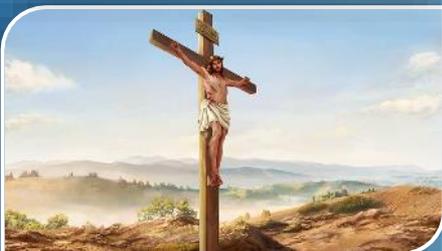
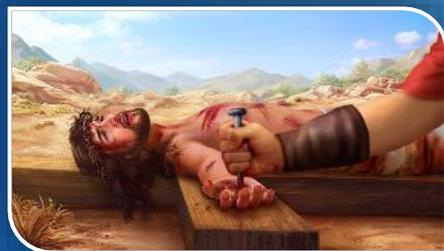
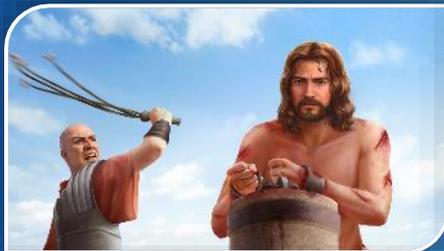
After Jesus had expelled the merchants from the Temple, “the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them”, and the children praised Him (v. 14-15).

The old prophets were persecuted, and Jesus would be also persecuted and murdered by the religious leaders of His own people.



# DYING FOR THOSE IN NEED

**"Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:4-5)**



**Jesus was innocent, pure and kind. He always took care of those in need, but only received oppression, injustice, suffering, pain and cruel death.**

**He did it because He loves you. He wanted to liberate you from sin and give you eternal life.**

**No matter the injustice, the suffering or the need you're going through. He knows, listens, understands and acts.**

**Nobody can understand your troubles and comfort you like Jesus does (Hebrews 4:15).**

**“The Lord has special grace for the mourner, and its power is to melt hearts, to win souls. His love opens a channel into the wounded and bruised soul, and becomes a healing balsam to those who sorrow. 'The Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort ... comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.'**  
**2 Corinthians 1:3, 4.”**

E.G.W. (Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, cp. 2, p. 13)