

# RESCUE SUNDAY

Jesus Brings Liberation for All



# JESUS BRINGS LIBERATION FOR ALL

AUTHOR - Pastor Paul Summers

## Study 5:

### Jesus Brings Liberation for All

The Israelites have struggled with faithfulness to God for centuries. They have experienced both war and peace. Under Babylonian rule, many were exiled and separated from their cultural and religious roots in Jerusalem. Their temple, the house of God, was destroyed. The Israelites returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple under Persian rule. Still, they did not feel God's presence as strongly as before. The prophets predicted that God would send a Messiah, a suffering servant who would take on all evil and sin (Isaiah 53), establish justice (Isaiah 42:1-4) and an everlasting kingdom (Daniel 7).

In the Old Testament, there were prophecies about God making a new covenant that would never be broken (Jeremiah 31:31-33), pouring out His Spirit on all people (Joel 2:28-29), and dwelling with them again. The Israelites eagerly anticipated the coming of a king who would establish God's rule, overthrowing all other empires. When Jesus, the son of Mary and Joseph, grew up in Nazareth, he was not initially recognised as the promised Messiah, as he was just a carpenter. His chosen disciples were fishermen, tax collectors, and zealots, not prestigious individuals. However, they went beyond Israel and initiated the movement of the kingdom of God, which continues to bring about God's generous justice and transform the world today.

In this study, Jesus reads out his mission statement, which he not only fulfilled but also passed on to you and me as his disciples today.

### DISCUSS:

- When faced with a hard truth, how do we tend to respond?
- What can help us understand and receive hard truths? (Consider sharing a time when you spoke a hard truth to someone or had someone share a hard truth with you.)

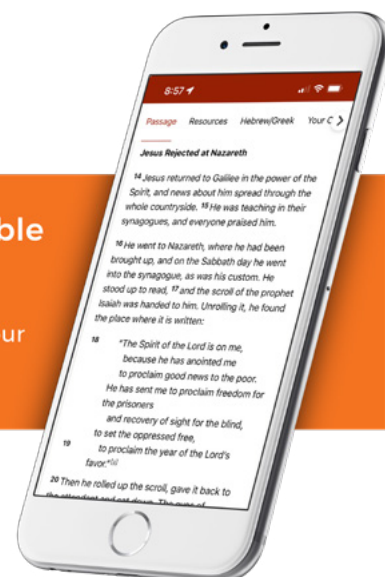
Jesus returns to his hometown after 40 days in the wilderness, the very beginning of his ministry. Jesus references stories that are common knowledge for Jewish people: Elijah and the widow from Sidon (1 Kings 17) and Naaman the Syrian healed of leprosy (2 Kings 5). Sidon and Syria were Gentile kingdoms, revealing God's love and involvement for the whole world and everyone in it.

### READ:

**Luke 4:14-30**

Grab your Bible  
and open to  
**Luke 4:14-30**

or look it up on your  
mobile device



## DISCUSS:

- Jesus reads from Isaiah 61 and tells the synagogue attendees that the Isaiah scripture is fulfilled in their hearing. Consider the implications. What is Jesus communicating about himself and his ministry?
- What is the crowd's reaction and response to Jesus in the beginning (verse 15) versus the end (Verse 28)? Why does Jesus' proclamation in verses 23-27 provoke such a dramatic shift?
- Take a minute in silence and reflect on the point in the story when emotions turn, and a mob of people start taking Jesus to a cliff, where they intend to kill him. Imagine Jesus' body, the crowds' words and actions, and the onlookers.
- Where have you seen violent responses provoked in our community or world? How does this story of Jesus, God incarnate, being on the receiving end of anger and violence impact or inform what you see in the world?

### Additional questions;

- Where in the life of Jesus do you see him living out the Isaiah 61 prophecy?
- Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me...", what does that mean for us as we share in the mission of Jesus today?
- What is the significance of the people Jesus mentions in verses 25-27, particularly in the synagogue?

## SUMMARY + REFLECTION:

We saw in the Old Testament that God responds to injustice, both emotionally and actively, through unlikely people like Moses and like us. God comes down and takes on humanity. Jesus is God in the flesh, responding to injustice with his voice and body. Jesus is nearly lynched by an angry mob for speaking the truth that God's kingdom is one of freedom, healing, and liberation for all nations, and not just the Jews. Jesus' message of justice and inclusion for all stirs their ethnic bias. No one intervenes or stands up for Jesus.

The gospel of Jesus will be good news to some and offensive to others. Proclaiming the kingdom of God with urgency and boldness and pursuing shalom for this broken world will up-end the systems of power that depend on the marginalisation and oppression of some communities. The good news of Jesus is a threat to the evils of injustice. As you speak truth and work for justice, know that Jesus has gone before you. Jesus has endured opposition, violence, being silenced, and even death, which could not hold him down.

- Take a minute to pause and listen; how is God speaking to you?
- How is God calling us to pursue generous justice for those suffering under the weight of injustice?

## A Kingdom vision of Jesus' mission is lived out through Destiny Rescues survivor care today.

It's easy to imagine the moment our agents rescue a child from a trafficker as the story's happy conclusion. But in reality, it's only the beginning.

The road to recovery after enduring the horrors of human trafficking is long and difficult in the best of situations. In the worst of them, it's only a brief reprieve before desperation drives the child back into exploitation.

We understand that rescue is more than an event; it's a process. Our job isn't done until we address the vulnerabilities that led to exploitation to help them stay free.

### What happens after rescue?

Post-rescue, a survivor's next steps are determined based on their unique situation, including the vulnerabilities that led to exploitation and local legal procedure.

**A survivor's next steps follow one of three paths.**

- Enrolment in an individualised Destiny Rescue Freedom Plan™ implemented in one of our residential homes or through our Community Care program, which enables the child to live at home while participating in services. Freedom Plans include health checks, trauma resilience training and economic empowerment solutions.
- Reunification with family may include international travel, accommodation curation and assistance with legal documentation. Sometimes, we can follow up with survivors in the months after reunification.
- They are entrusted to government agencies and their standard processes or other local organisations that offer appropriate services. Follow-up in these circumstances is limited as organisations and governments work to protect children and their privacy.

**While every plan is different, the care often includes:**

- 1. Physical:** The survivor's immediate medical needs are met. This includes visits to a healthcare provider to assess her overall health and provide treatment. Many children and their families live on the brink of starvation at the time of rescue, so we provide monthly food packs as needed.
- 2. Emotional and Spiritual:** It would be difficult to overstate the unbelievable trauma many of these children endure at the hands of their abusers. We begin the healing process with EMPOWER, a trauma resilience training program—a groundbreaking program that enables survivors to move forward with their lives. The EMPOWER curriculum we use also introduces the saving message of the gospel as a part of the journey to emotional well-being.
- 3. Financial:** To help ensure survivors never have to resort to exploitation to survive in the future, we offer carefully tailored economic empowerment options to the child or, in the case of school-aged children, their guardians.
- 4. Vocational training:** For many survivors, economic empowerment begins with vocational training at an official trade school, followed by assistance in finding a job in that sector. Vocations of this type can range from welding to hairdressing to making clothing.

While a child is enrolled in a **Freedom Plan™**, we keep careful documentation of the survivor's progress so we can continue to adjust the program and services to fit her needs.

If this work of rescue and reintegration resonates with you, please consider joining the movement at Destiny Rescue today as we continue to free children from human trafficking.