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BIB 331
Prof. Chan

Discuss the use of Isaiah 61:1-2 in Luke 4:18-19, giving proper attention to both the original Old Testament context and the context in Luke. Show how the passage forms an integral part of the message of Isaiah and how the passage contributes to the theology of Luke.

In Isaiah 61:1-2 Isaiah was speaking a prophecy that God gave him. He was spreading the good news for those who were oppressed. Giving them hope, letting them know it won't always be like this. He was telling the people in Jerusalem that the spirit of the Lord was upon him and he was anointed and appointed to be able to stand before them and prophesy. The Lord gave Isaiah a glimpse of the future, a glimpse of the Lord's love, justice and more importantly the Lord's salvation for his people. Isaiah is identifying that Jesus will be coming. However in the gospel of Luke 4:18-19, it is Jesus himself who unrolled the scroll of Isaiah and read it. So the Prophecy of Isaiah has come to pass, has been fulfilled, Jesus was and is the fulfillment. He is the anointed one who is full of the Holy Spirit. Isaiah was given the authority not only to spread the good news to anybody, it was to specific people (oppressed, brokenhearted, captives, prisoners and mourners) All of these people was desperate for God's favor and wanted freedom. In Luke the Lord's favor has come, which referred to the year of Jubilee in Leviticus 25. It was a time to proclaim freedom (debts was erased, slaves was freed and land was returned to its original owners). The very person that Isaiah was speaking about was standing right before them. The Scripture he read to them was being fulfilled; he would fulfill every part of it with his time on earth. Jesus stopped reading before he got to the day of God's anger because that time has not come yet; it was in the future when Jesus will return as King.

Jesus is speaking to us as Christians in the same way, we should be teaching to the poor in spirit, evangelizing, teaching about Jesus and Salvation. We should minister to all the lost and brokenhearted but pointing them to Jesus for their healing and deliverance. Jesus is telling them that the time is now; he has come to set them free from the ways of the world. Everything he came to do would be fulfilled; he left the Holy Spirit here for us to continue his work. He has anointed us to do his will and we have the authority and power by the Holy Spirit to do so. The book of Luke was revealing Jesus Christ and all the work that he was set out to do on earth until he was taken up, exactly what Isaiah prophesied many years prior and now it's happening. Everything comes to a full circle.