

Jesus's Manifesto – Our Manifesto: Luke 4:14-30

Starter – sharing our stories.

Has anyone got any stories of where they have seen God at work, or have anything that God has particularly been teaching them during the last few weeks or since you last met?

This term's sermon series is about 'Living in the Kingdom'

- What do you understand by the phrase 'God's Kingdom'?

Read Luke 4:14-30.

Jesus has just been baptised at the start of his ministry and has spent 40 days in prayer and fasting in the desert, which finished with Him being tempted by the devil. Now he comes to announce his mission. This passage is often called 'Jesus' manifesto.'

- What strikes you about this passage on first reading?

Isaiah says that 'the Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to:

- proclaim good news to the poor
- proclaim freedom for the prisoners
- proclaim recovery of sight for the blind
- set the oppressed free
- proclaim the year of the Lord's favour

- What did each of these things mean in Jesus time?
- What might each of these things mean in 21st century Malvern?

In smaller groups, share an example of when you have had the opportunity to do one of these.

- The important thing to note is that Jesus did not just go out and do these things in his own strength, but it starts by saying 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me....' (v18)
 - What did that mean for Jesus?
 - What does it mean for us as we are anointed with the Spirit to continue His mission (cf Acts 1:1-8)?

Our 3rd part of our St Andrew's and All Saints Mission Statement is **'to see lives transformed and communities flourish as we proclaim and demonstrate God's kingdom.'**

- How do these verses fit into that?
- Where are you/we already doing this a) on our own frontlines b) as a church?

Prayer and response

In a time of quiet, be open to God about where He is at work and where His Spirit is leading us both as individuals and as a church.

- What is He calling you/us to do this week?
- Where may you have opportunities to carry out 'your manifesto' this week?

Share anything you sense God saying and pray for each other.

You might like to Listen to or sing 'We have sung our songs of victory' - Stuart Townend CD or You Tube clip <https://youtu.be/Xd4GMAq19NQ>