

**Scripture Reading:** *Luke 4:16-30*

In the Scripture Reading above, *verses 18,19*, there is a quote from *Isaiah 61:1,2*. Jesus quotes the passage from *Isaiah* and says that it is now finding its fulfilment in Him. He is addressing the people in the synagogue of His hometown, Nazareth, on the Sabbath day.

As He read the Word, **the people bore witness to Him.** (*verse 22*). **The Holy Spirit witnessed in their hearts as to Who He was.** They also marvelled at the gracious words He spoke. **The awe of God came upon them.**

**The parallel passage in *Mark 6:2* confirms this response. “They were astonished,” saying, “Where did this man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands!”**”

In *Matthew 13:54*, **the Holy Spirit witnessed strongly to Jesus’ hometown congregation, that the passage of *Isaiah 61:1,2*, was indeed fulfilled in this Jesus of Nazareth, that day.**

**God was declaring to the people of Jesus’ hometown Who He was.**

However their response was a negative one.

They refused the witness of the Holy Spirit as to Who He was.

They chose to say instead, “Is this not Joseph’s son?” *Luke 4:22*, “Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, the brother of James, Joses, Judas and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?” So they were offended with Him. *Mark 6:3, Matthew 13:55-57.*

They reasoned away the witness and “voice” of the Holy Spirit as to Who He was.

Jesus realised what they were doing. He said to them, “A prophet is not without honour except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house.” *Mark 6:4, Matthew 13:57*

**In the passage of *Luke 4:25 – 27*, Jesus points out to the people the serious consequences of failing to recognise, accept and honour the man, (or woman), God chooses, anoints and appoints to a particular ministry.**

**Jesus tells them about Elijah in *verses 25 and 26*. Elijah was not honoured in Israel as the one chosen and anointed by God.** In fact Elijah said, “I am the only one left serving God.” *Romans 11:3, 1Kings 19:10.*

**Jesus makes it clear that we are to honour the chosen, anointed servant of God just as we honour God.**

**And He says, “If we do not honour the servant of God the Father, we do not honour the Father who sent him”.** *John 5:23.*

**Further more, if we do not honour the servant of God, the blessing of that ministry cannot flow through to us, because we are dishonouring God.** *Luke 4:25,26.*

**When we do not honour the servant God sends to us we do not honour God, therefore the blessing of God through His servant cannot flow to us.** *John 5:23.*

Now we can see clearly why **the grace and mercy of God could not flow through Elijah** to the widows of Israel in the years of terrible famine. *Luke 4:25,26*. In the time of famine God had to go outside of Israel, to Sidon to extend His blessing through Elijah to a widow.

**Israel had refused to honour the chosen, anointed servant of God, and so were dishonouring God** *John 5:23.*

**Jesus said that if we receive (that is, honour) a prophet in the name of a prophet, we shall receive a prophet’s reward.** *Matthew 10:41.* That is, the blessing of God through His prophet will flow to us.

Jesus said to His disciples, **“He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”** *Matthew 10:40.*

**The issue of honouring the ministry God sends to us is a big one. When we honour God’s servant we are honouring God, and making a way for the blessing of God to flow to us through His minister.**