

The scroll, the silence, and the brow of the hill

Luke 4:14–30 · Isaiah 61:1–2 · Isaiah 58:6

WHAT HE READ — AND WHAT HE DIDN'T

He didn't read Isaiah straight. He stitched two chapters together and left something out. Those who knew their scroll would have felt the gaps — like a tongue noticing where a tooth should be.

ISAIAH 61:1–2 IN FULL

Good news to the poor · release to captives · sight to the blind · ~~bind up the brokenhearted~~ · the year of the Lord's favour · ~~the day of vengeance of our God~~

ISAIAH 58:6 ADDED

Let the oppressed go free · break every yoke

WHAT JESUS READ

Good news to the poor · release to captives · sight to the blind · oppressed go free · the year of the Lord's favour

Strikethrough = left out. Blue = added. The omission of vengeance is not carelessness. Someone made a choice about what this God is like.

THE TWO MOVEMENTS OF SUNDAY

PART ONE · FROM THE PULPIT · Luke 4:14–21

“Today this scripture is fulfilled in our hearing.”

Nazareth is where the scrolls were first given to him. Now he gives them back. The fulfilment happens not in him alone but in the hearing — in this room, in the act of listening happening right now. These words are seed. When they have been heard — really heard, inhabited — then they are fulfilled.

PART TWO · FROM AMONG THE CONGREGATION · Luke 4:22–30

“Is this not Joseph's son?”

Not admiration. A reduction. This is your ain folk. Don't get carried away. The warmth hardens at the edges. They want the blessing to begin at home, with those who have the prior claim. Jesus reaches for Elijah and Elisha. God has never been owned. Not by us. Not by anyone. The warmth curdles. And he passes through the midst of them.

TO CARRY THROUGH THE WEEK

- What do we edit out when we read the gospel — to ourselves, or to others?
 - Which part of this story have we heard? The pride. The put-down. The God who is not ours to own. Or Isaiah's words still waiting to be made real.
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Nazareth is where the scrolls were given to him. The scroll is still here.