

CITYWEST CHURCH

17.03.2024 - 10AM

DIVINE HOSPITALITY

Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region. **15** He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

16 When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. **17** The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written:

18

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon me,
for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released,
that the blind will see,
that the oppressed will be set free,
19 and that the time of the LORD's favor has come.[f]”

20 He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. **21** Then he began to speak to them. “The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!”

22 Everyone spoke well of him and was amazed by the gracious words that came from his lips. “How can this be?” they asked. “Isn't this Joseph's son?”

23 Then he said, “You will undoubtedly quote me this proverb: ‘Physician, heal yourself’ — meaning, ‘Do miracles here in your hometown like those you did in Capernaum.’ **24** But I tell you the truth, no prophet is accepted in his own hometown.

Luke 4:14-24 (NLT)

As we look towards Easter we have the opportunity today to remind ourselves of the life of Jesus and his earthly ministry and the theme in which he does that ministry is one that is very powerful for us.

Next week is Palm Sunday and we will be starting our Holy Week reading plan where we will look at the majority of Jesus' ministry that happened in the last week leading up to his death and resurrection.

In light of our theme for this year and practice of hospitality, I wanted to read this passage today and look at how hospitality and ministry of Jesus are so closely intertwined.

This in some ways is a taste test of our deep dive this year.

1. PROPHECY FULFILLED.

In Jerusalem, the LORD of Heaven's Armies
will spread a wonderful feast
for all the people of the world.
It will be a delicious banquet
with clear, well-aged wine and choice meat.

7

There he will remove the cloud of gloom,
the shadow of death that hangs over the earth.

8

He will swallow up death forever!
The Sovereign LORD will wipe away all tears.
He will remove forever all insults and mockery
against his land and people.
The LORD has spoken!

Isa 25:6-9 (NLT)

Its not the physical meal its the ministry of Jesus.

2. THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S WELCOME.

First, Jesus's ministry enacts the Lord God's hospitality. Jesus declares that "the Spirit of the Lord is upon me" (4:18a) and that his ministry is "to proclaim the year of the Lord's welcome" (4:19). The phrase "Spirit of the Lord" refers to God's Spirit, and the second phrase (in 4:19) is a quotation of Isaiah 61:2a, so no doubt the primary referent of "Lord" is the God of Israel. Jesus's ministry, then, is both empowered by God's Spirit and a manifestation of God's welcome.⁶ In other words, "the year of the Lord's welcome" is established and enacted throughout Luke's Gospel in the ministry of the Lord Jesus.⁷ The point is simple but important: Jesus is more than a prophet or important religious leader; his ministry is an embodiment of God's hospitality toward the stranger and the oppressed.

The ministry of Jesus is the hospitality of God to not just those who sat at tables with him but to all humanity.

Cosmic ramifications.

3. JESUS IS THE TABLE.

As I mentioned earlier in the message on a time line of tables, the word for table and reconciliation in Hebrew is the same.

Shulchan

It comes from the root word shul which means a meal

Shulchan is also the word for a lamb's skin, when the Israelites in Egypt shared a meal they used a lamb skin.

The last word from the root word Shul is Shalach which means to forgive, to take off weight.

Taking off weight and putting it on the table.

The table is the physical action that can lead to spiritual reconciliation.

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS:

- 1. Discuss together how the ministry of Jesus is divine hospitality?**
- 2. What does the year of the Lords welcome look like for us today?**
- 3. How can we share that with others in our world?**