



Jan. 27, 2019 Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21 & Neh. 8: 2-10

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Stone, Naomi. [Path of the Wayfarer](#)

Rolheiser, Fr. Ron. [Our Longing for God's Justice](#)

[Lk 4: 14-21](#) video

ENTERING THE SCENE:

Let us imagine that Jesus has just unrolled the huge scroll, finds Isaiah and goes almost the very end of the book, read the portion he chose, and now is sitting down to field questions. We take special note that he left out; "and the day of vengeance of our God". We were with him until he did this. What is he claiming about himself, about God? What am I going to do about the mixed feelings I have about what just happened? On one hand I feel liberated from the judgmental God, on the other hand he is asking me to stretch way beyond my comfort zone. And then I remember, he is just the carpenter from down the road.

Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

1 **Many** have undertaken to compile a **narrative** of the events, which have been **fulfilled** in our midst, 2 **precisely** as those events were transmitted to us by the **original eyewitnesses** and **ministers** of the word. I too have carefully traced the whole sequence of events from the beginning, 3 and have decided to set it in writing for you, **Theophilus**, 4 so that **Your Excellency** may see how reliable the **instruction** was that you **received**.

4:14 Jesus returned to **Galilee** in the power of the **Spirit**, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. 15 He taught in their **synagogues**, and everyone praised him. 16 He went to **Nazareth**, where he had been brought up, and on the **Sabbath day** he went into the **synagogue**, as was his **custom**. And he stood up to read. 17 The **scroll** of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: 18 The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has **anointed me** to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim **freedom** for the prisoners and **recovery** of sight for the blind, to **release** the oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the **Lord's favor**." 20 Then he rolled up the **scroll**, gave it back to the attendant and **sat down**. The eyes of everyone in the **synagogue** were fastened on him, 21 and he began by saying to them, "**Today** this scripture is **fulfilled** in your hearing."

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Jesus said: "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." Do you think you would have gone home full of hope or fear? If hope, why? If fear, why?

PRAYER: Jesus, courageous guide, I cling to your words like they are a life raft and I am going down a roaring rapids. My eyes are fastened on you as I choose each day to believe your good news. Like those people in the synagogue that day I hope that this time won't be a disappointment like all those others who claimed to be the "one from God". My fears take hold of me as I grip the side of the raft, because I know that overcoming my old ways of believing involves risks. Help me as I learn to trust. Amen.