

sent

Advent Guide
week four



 TRANSFORMATION
CHURCH

Reading:

Luke 4:16-21

He came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. As usual, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him, and unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written:

**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 release[b] to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free the oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.**

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on him. He began by saying to them, "Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled."

Luke 18:18-23

A ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked him. "No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery; do not murder; do not steal; do not bear false witness; honor your father and mother."

"I have kept all these from my youth," he said.

When Jesus heard this, he told him, "You still lack one thing: Sell all you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

After he heard this, he became extremely sad, because he was very rich.

Psalm 84:10

Better a day in your courts
than a thousand anywhere else.
I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than live in the tents of wicked people.

Sent to the Oppressed

Devotional:

As Jesus finishes reading from the scroll of Isaiah, He announces that He has been sent, “to set free the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Oppression can take on many forms, but no matter what, we have all been oppressed by sin and sin can look differently for everybody.

For the rich young ruler, sin looked like ultimately rejecting to follow Jesus because he loved his money more than he loved God. His allegiance was to his possessions and the status they provided. Money was this young man’s god. But Jesus is saying, “Am I enough?”

That is the question we must all wrestle with. Is Jesus enough? Those of us who follow Him know that Jesus is better. Better is one day in his courts that thousands elsewhere (Psalm 84:10). He’s not asking us to clean up our act or get rid of all our wealth in order to follow Him. He is inviting us into a greater story where He is more than enough and provides abundant life for us all.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, You break the chains of the oppressed. You recover the sight of the blind. You proclaim the release of the captives. You preach good news to the poor. Thank you for remembering us and rescuing us. Thank you for trusting us to be sent out as your representatives. Help us to fulfill Your mission of bringing Your Kingdom to earth. Amen.

Soul-tattoo:

Transformation Church, we are sent to the oppressed.

