



## Learn Your Bible

Resources to help you learn and understand the Bible

# Short Study 046: Anointed

Study Author: Michael Button

**Read:** Isaiah 61:1-4 and Luke 4:16-21

**Introduction:** There were many occasions when Jesus reminded His Jewish hearers that He or His ministry was foretold in the Scriptures, but none are so specific as this reference to Isaiah 61. Jesus began His sermon with "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21). We are not told what Jesus went on to say on that occasion (Note 'began' in verse 21). Maybe He referred to some aspects of His ministry that fulfilled the specific prophecies? Whether or not this was the content of Jesus' sermon, see what *you* can identify from the life and work of Jesus that fulfilled prophecies of Isaiah 61. (just one example of each is given here, but add others from your own knowledge and/or research).

1. Anointed (v18). [Matt 3:16]
2. Preach the gospel (good news) to the poor (v18). [Matt 1:5]
3. Heal the brokenhearted (v18). [Luke 7:12-15]
4. Proclaim liberty to the captives (v18). [John 8:34-36]
5. (Proclaim) recovery of sight to the blind (v18). This was fulfilled literally [John 9:1-7] (However, see below \*)
6. Set at liberty those who are oppressed (v18). (See below \*) [Rom 8:2]
7. Proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord (v19). [Matt 4:17]

**To think about:** Jesus seems to have stopped reading half-way through Isaiah 61 verse 2. Why do you think this is?

**To dig deeper:** Using what reference books are available to you, read what you can find about *anointing*, especially as it refers to the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

\* The Greek version of Isaiah 61 has "recovery of sight to the blind". The Hebrew version has "set at liberty those who are oppressed". Jesus was probably reading from a Hebrew edition that contained both, interpreting blindness as being in the darkness of oppression.