



SESSION 05: MISSION OF MERCY

Opening Prayer

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; He has sent me to bring good news to the afflicted, to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, release to the prisoners, To announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God; To comfort all who mourn; to place on those who mourn in Zion a diadem instead of ashes, To give them oil of gladness instead of mourning, a glorious mantle instead of a faint spirit.

-Isaiah 61:1-3

Small Group Discussion

1. Why do the people in the synagogue at Nazareth change their minds and go from accepting Jesus to rejecting him and attempting to stone him?

2. By quoting the prophet Isaiah, Jesus is identifying himself with the Old Testament prophets who were rejected by Israel. Why did the people of ancient Israel and Judah reject the prophets sent by God? What is the result of the rejection of the prophets? What is the result of rejection of Jesus and his teachings?

3. Several times in Luke's fourth chapter, Jesus acts with authority and power, especially through his words. Describe these instances and explain how they reveal who Jesus is.

(over)



4. In the synagogue in Nazareth, Jesus reads from the prophet Isaiah and announces that the Scriptures are fulfilled “today.” What four groups of people needing ministry are mentioned in this passage? How will Jesus fulfill the words of Isaiah with his ministry? How do these words indicate the kind of Messiah that Jesus will be?

CLOSING PRAYER

Grant us, O merciful God, to desire eagerly, to discover wisely, to acknowledge sincerely, and to fulfill perfectly the mission of mercy you have given us, to the praise and glory of Your holy Name. Amen.

ASSIGNMENT

Call of the Apostles

Session 6 Reading

Luke 5:1-6:49

Leviticus 13:45-46, 49; 14:2-9

Numbers 5:2-3

Matthew 5:1-7:28

Recommended Bibles

The Catholic Study Bible Third Edition: New American Bible Revised Edition – ISBN: 978-0190267230, Oxford University Press; 3 edition (March 1, 2016)

The New Oxford Annotated Bible, New Revised Standard Version, Third Edition – ISBN: 978-0195288834, Oxford University Press; College edition (February 2, 2007)