

Jesus and the vulnerable in Luke

Westminster College
Cambridge
9 August 2021

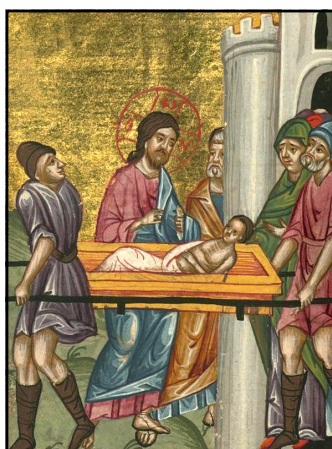


1

Collect for vocation in daily work (BCP, 261)

Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

2



The 'vulnerable' in special Lukan material

- 6.24-26 = woes following beatitudes
- 7.11-17 = Jesus heals widow's son at Nain
- 8.1-3 = women among Jesus's entourage
- 10.29-37 = parable of good Samaritan
- 10.38-42 = Jesus at home of Mary and Martha
- 13.10-17 = Jesus heals crippled woman on sabbath
- 5.8-10 = parable of woman and lost coin
- 17.11-19 = Jesus heals 10 lepers
- 18.1-8 = parable of persistent widow

3

The 'poor' in the Gospels

	Additional
Matthew = 5x	references in...
Mark = 5x	
Luke = 10x	Luke 4.18
John = 4x	Luke 14.13, 21
	Luke 16.20, 22
	Luke 19.8

4

The Beatitudes: Matthew vs Luke

Matt 5.3-12

³⁻⁴ Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of heaven.

²⁵ Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.
⁶ Blessed are those who weep now, for you will be filled.
¹⁹ Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

Luke 6.20-26

²⁰ Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

5

Mark 6.1-6 (NRSVA)

He left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

6

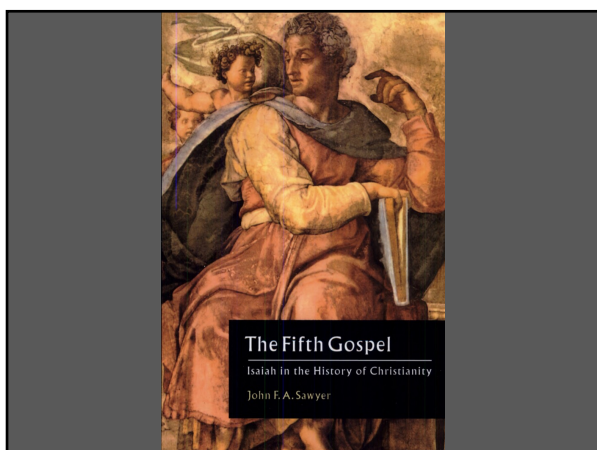
Luke 4.16-21 (NRSVA)

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

...composite quotation from Isa 58, 61...

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

7



8

'Isaiah, then, together with his rebukes of wickedness, precepts of righteousness, and predictions of evil, also prophesied much more than the rest about Christ and the Church, that is, about the King and that city which founded; so that some say he should be called an evangelist rather than a prophet.'

Augustine, *City of God* 29 (trans. Schaff)

9

Isa 58 (NRSVA)

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice, to
undo the thongs of the yoke, to let
the oppressed go free, and to
break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with
the hungry, and bring the
homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover
them, and not to hide yourself
from your own kin?

Isa 61 (NRSVA)

¹ 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 oppressed, to bind up
the broken-hearted, to proclaim
liberty to the captives, and release
to the prisoners;

² to proclaim the year of the Lord's
favour, and the day of vengeance
of our God; to comfort all who
mourn;

³ to provide for those who mourn
in Zion—to give them a garland
instead of ashes, the oil of
gladness instead of mourning, the
mantle of praise instead of a faint
spirit.

10

Luke 4.16-21 (NRSVA)

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he
went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He
stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to
him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was
written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat
down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he
began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your
hearing.’

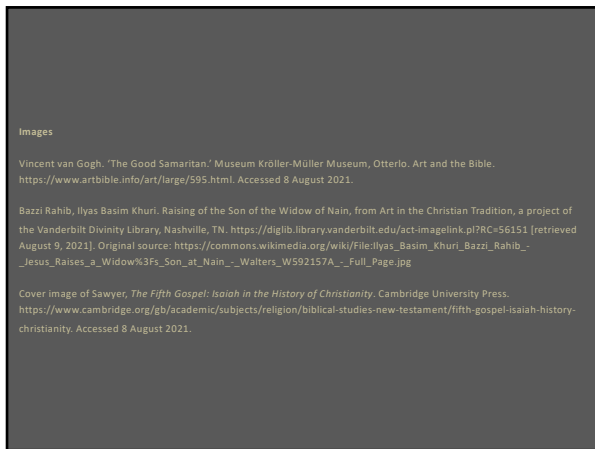
11

Breakout groups

Jesus's reading from Isaiah in Nazareth
Luke 4.16-21

How does this synagogue reading foreshadow the
looming encounters between Jesus and the
vulnerable in Luke's gospel?

12



13
