

PRAYER MEETING

"CHRIST'S ANOINTED MINISTRY"**Introduction**

1. The beginning of Christ's ministry
2. He is now in his "home church"
3. The customs of the synagogue

1. CHRIST PERFORMED HIS MINISTRY BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

- 1) These words were prophetic of Christ: Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:21
- 2) There was a joint ministry of Christ and the Holy Spirit:
 - (i) Isaiah 48:16
 - (ii) John the Baptist in John 3:34
- 3) This in 3 stages or degrees:
 - (i) Birth
 - (ii) Ministry, at Christ's Baptism
 - (iii) Pentecost – for the Church
- 4) So, the miracles were done by the Holy Spirit:
 - (i) "a strong man armed..."
 - (ii) "If I by the finger of God..."
 - (iii) So, likewise, the Early church.

OBSERVE: The "greater works" done by the apostles were their many converts after Pentecost.

APPLICATION: We should pray much for the Spirit to be poured out again.

2. THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE SPIRIT IS GIVEN TO CHRIST IS NOW STATED

- 1) The text gives us the purpose of this unction:
 - (i) "to preach...to the poor".
"Poor" in man's loss of God and need of the gospel

- (ii) "to heal the broken hearted":
A world that weeps – needs Christ's touch.
- (iii) "deliverance to the captives":
Man's bondage to sin and love of vain pleasures – need to be rescued.
- (iv) "recovery of sight to the blind":
To see spiritual things, especially the Cross.
- (v) "to set at liberty...bruised":
People have their heart-aches – they need to be set free.
- (vi) "to preach the acceptable year...":
This surely means the NT age from start to finish.
APPLICATION: O how we should rejoice that Christ has come to save us!

3. WHAT A SAD PICTURE THIS IS OF OUR HUMAN RACE!

- 1) Let us remind ourselves that this is how God sees mankind – how foolish people are not to heed it! – how much we need to be spiritual and serious – to go about trying to help poor sinners to find the only Saviour of mankind.
- 2) Sad too to see the result of Christ's sermon as Luke tells us – the prejudice against him – the fury and fanaticism of their reaction to Christ's words – the madness in man's heart – it is all so visible here.

CONCLUSION

Have we come to Christ for all these blessings which He came to earth to bestow?

PSALM**146: 5 – 10****147: 1 – 7****34: 17 – 19**