

## What's the Problem?

Luke 4: 16:19

Everything on earth is created to solve a problem of some kind. An ink pen solves a problem. Reading glasses solve a problem. Chairs do the same. So do lights in a room. The same applies for parents, teachers, therapists, accountants, engineers, and so on.

Every person is created to solve a problem, at least one, maybe more. The issue is that many of us are not solving our problem, and as a result we live unfulfilled and unfinished lives.

There are others that may know the problem they are to solve but are not doing it effectively, so they are frustrated. They get frustrated with themselves, with others, and even with God. They take it out on others, not realizing they are creating more problems rather than solving the original problems. It doesn't have to be this way.

The process is basically in two steps, which we learn from scripture and from the life of Jesus. We must discover what the problem is we are here to solve, and begin solving it. The process requires us to prepare ourselves first, so we solve it effectively. This is what we see in the life of Jesus.

In this passage, Jesus announces that the Spirit of the Lord anointed Him to accomplish several specific things, according to the prophet Isaiah. Jesus understood the problems He came to solve.

### 1. Rely on the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the one who anointed Jesus for His purpose (v. 18). It was the Holy Spirit who led Jesus (v. 1) and gave Jesus His power (v. 14). If Jesus had to rely on the Holy Spirit, so do we. If we don't rely on Him, even if we know the problem, we will be unable to solve it effectively, which leads to the frustration we talked about earlier.

Sometimes the Spirit will lead you into times of testing, as He did for Jesus into the wilderness. This came before ministry started. Anything that is testing your faith right now should be considered necessary to reach your destination, and should not be despised, but overcome. Jesus used the word to overcome, and so should we.

## 2. Rely on God's timing.

Jesus was thirty years old before He began His ministry. He didn't start it earlier because it was not His Father's timing. Also, he did not jump ahead and die on the cross prematurely because it was not God's timing. Purpose and problem solving requires God's timing. If we don't properly prepare ourselves during the preparation time, we can actually delay our launching time. Though God has a set time, if we are not ready, the set time can be delayed. In some cases, if we are in unbelief, we can forfeit our purpose and God will use someone else.

This is what happened to Israel in the wilderness. Because of unbelief God had to leave them to wander and die in the wilderness, and take their children into the promised land instead. It is no different today. Let's prepare ourselves so we can be ready when the set time arrives.

## 3. Grow in the Word of God.

In this passage we see Jesus reading from the prophet Isaiah where His purpose was revealed. Likewise, we will discover who we are in the word. We discover who we are in Christ, what He's done for us, and what we've been given to accomplish His will. His word is spirit, and it is life (John 6:63, Heb. 4:12). It separates our souls from our spirits, and discerns the thoughts and intents of our hearts.

Jesus had to grow in the word of God and in the power of the Spirit, and so do we if we are to discover the problem(s) we are here to solve and accomplish that purpose.

#### 4. Expect people to misunderstand.

In verse 23 we see that Jesus prophesies that the people will say, "Physician, heal thyself." This was evidence of rejection, according to verse 24 (no prophet is accepted in his own country). Sometimes the ones closest to you will not see your calling. Sometimes that happens. You have to trust God anyway and move forward. They didn't call you, God did. You and I will be accountable to God, not to the people, to fulfill purpose.

#### 5. Immerse yourself into the purpose.

We are told in Luke 2:52 that Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. The idea is that He learned first, and increased in wisdom. We must do the same thing. Learn all you can about the problem you are to solve. Learn from those who are solving it already. Be disciple and mentored. This is an essential step.

I Tim. 4:14-16

Give yourself entirely to it. Other versions of v. 15 say immerse yourself in them. Throw yourself into your tasks. It's often a lack of preparation and immersion that results in minimal success. This is a solveable problem. We have to increase in wisdom. Immerse yourself. Learn from others who are deeply involved. It can inspire you.

As we follow the example of Jesus, we will learn who we are, what the problem is, and the help we have in Christ to accomplish the assignment and solve the problems we are called to solve. This is our purpose. Learn it, and immerse yourself in it.

