

**JESUS**

**FOR LIFE**

**The Year of the Lord's Favor**

# Jesus' Mission Statement

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read,<sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:16-19)



# The Year of Jubilee

- The “year of the Lord’s favor” = The year of Jubilee in Leviticus 25
- Every 50<sup>th</sup> year:
  - No one would work the fields for the entire year. They would rely on God to provide.
  - Anyone who had bought land would give it back to the family they bought it from.
  - All slaves would be freed.
  - All debts would be forgiven.

# The Year of Jubilee: Why?

- “The land must not be sold permanently, *because the land is mine and you reside in my land as foreigners and strangers.*” (Leviticus 25:23)
- “Even if someone is not redeemed in any of these ways, they and their children are to be released in the Year of Jubilee, <sup>55</sup> *for the Israelites belong to me as servants. They are my servants, whom I brought out of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.*” (Leviticus 25:54-55)
- God is in charge, and his people will do things his way.

# The Year of Jubilee: Benefits

From Easton's Bible Dictionary

1. It would prevent the accumulation of land on the part of a few to the detriment of the community at large.
2. It would render it impossible for any one to be born to absolute poverty, since everyone had his hereditary land.
3. It would preclude those inequalities which are produced by extremes of riches and poverty, and which make one man domineer over another.
4. It would utterly do away with slavery.
5. It would give those reduced by adverse circumstances the chance to begin again with the inherited land they had temporarily forfeited.
6. It would periodically rectify the disorders which crept into the state in the course of time, preclude the division of the people into nobles and plebeians, and preserve the theocracy inviolate.



# The Year of Jubilee: Benefits (in Other Words)

1. It would prevent monopolies where a few people or corporations bought up all their competitors and then charged outrageous prices.
2. It would eliminate generational poverty: Those born without enough would not be doomed to spend their entire lives poor and then pass the curse of poverty on to their descendants.
3. It would do away with economic disparities—everyone would have enough, and no one would be able to lord it over others.
4. It would eliminate the economic slavery where people have to borrow in order to survive and then can never get out from under their debt.
5. It would restore the accumulated wealth of prior generations so that no one is permanently impoverished by hard times.
6. Every 50 years the economy would restore to default settings, and all the accumulated unfairness and injustice would be swept away. God's concern and compassion for the poor would be the guiding principle for government.



# Why Did the People of Nazareth Try to Throw Jesus off a Cliff?

<sup>20</sup> Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him.

<sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

<sup>22</sup> All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself!' And you will tell me, 'Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'" <sup>24</sup> "Truly I tell you," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown.



# Why Did the People of Nazareth Try to Throw Jesus off a Cliff?

<sup>25</sup> I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. <sup>26</sup> Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. <sup>27</sup> And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed-- only Naaman the Syrian."

<sup>28</sup> All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this.

<sup>29</sup> They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff.

<sup>30</sup> But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

(Luke 4:20-30 NIV)



# What If 2021 Were a Year of Jubilee?

- Trust God instead of working to support ourselves
- All land returned to original owners
- All slaves freed
- All debts forgiven

# What If 2021 Were a Year of Jubilee?

Jesus doesn't say, "God helps those who help themselves."

Jesus says, "God helps those who can't help themselves."



# What If 2021 Were a Year of Jubilee?

Jesus doesn't say, "God helps those who help themselves."

Jesus says, "God helps those who can't help themselves."

Is this good news for us?

Are we God-dependent or self-sufficient?

Do we need a Savior, or can we pretty much manage on our own?



# God Helps Those Who Can't Help Themselves

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. <sup>7</sup> Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. <sup>8</sup> But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. (Romans 5:6-8 NLT)

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. (Ephesians 2:4-5 NIV)



# God Helps Those Who Can't Help Themselves

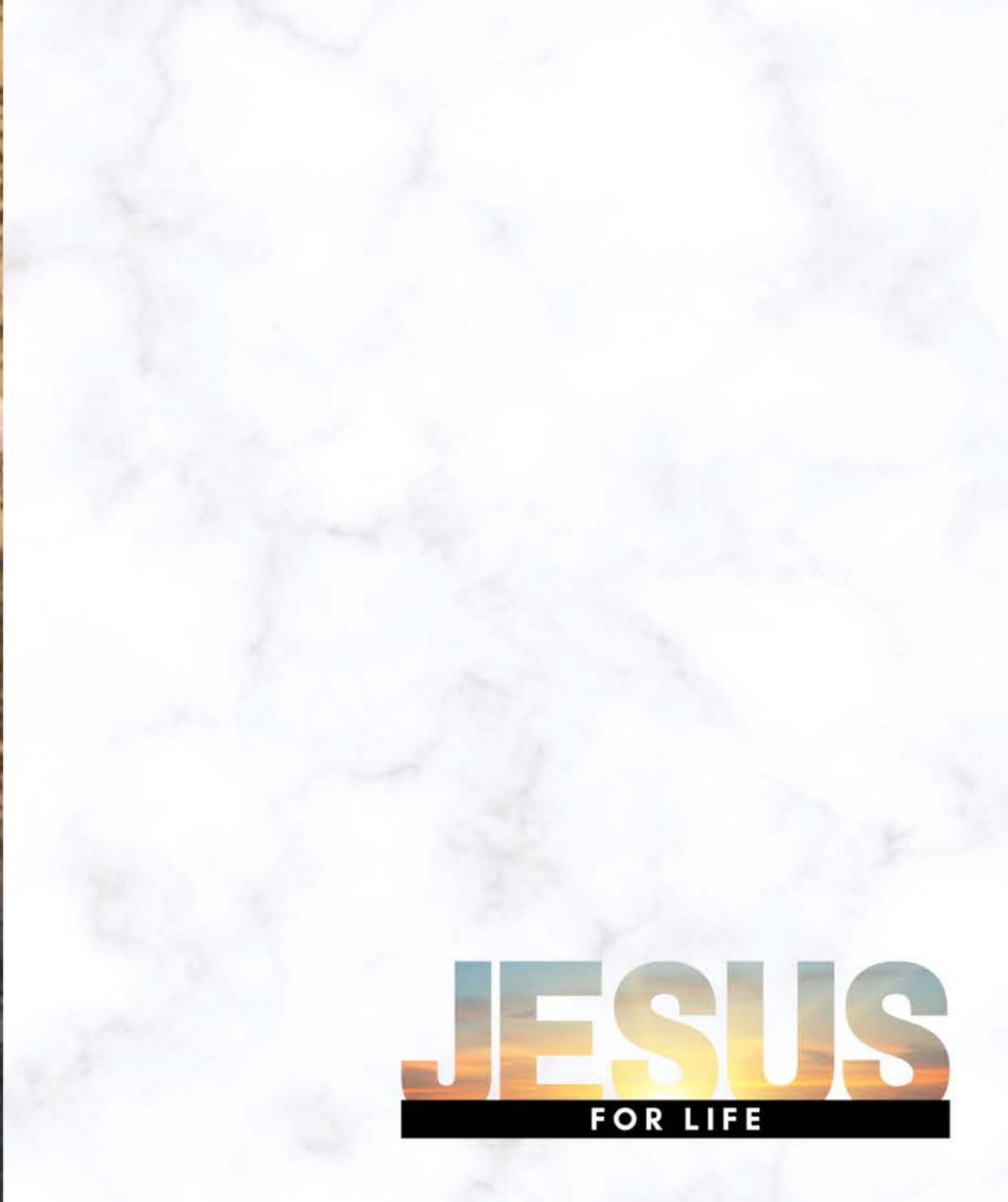
While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>12</sup> On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. <sup>13</sup> But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." (Matthew 9:10-13 NIV)



# Jesus' Mission Statement

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read,<sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:16-19)





**JESUS**  
FOR LIFE

# Invitation

## Moving Yourself toward Jesus

Reflect:

1. How is Jesus' mission statement good news for you?
2. How are you self-sufficient?
3. How are you God-dependent?

## Moving Others toward Jesus

Look for at least one opportunity to carry out Jesus' mission for the poor, for a prisoner, for someone who is blind or otherwise disabled, for someone who is oppressed, or for someone who needs the freedom of the year of Jubilee.



**JESUS**

**FOR LIFE**

**The Year of the Lord's Favor**