

CHRISTMAS: The Mission of Jesus for YOU!

In many Christian households, a nativity scene is prominently displayed among the holiday decorations, illustrating the true meaning of Christmas. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given" (Isaiah 9:6). It can be hard to fathom how an innocent and helpless baby in a manger could become the greatest gift of all. Imagine that baby, now grown, on a mission to share the reason for His coming. It is through understanding His "why" that we uncover the true essence of Christmas. Let's prepare our hearts to hear the message Jesus will share with His hometown community at the beginning of His ministry. This message is not just for them but for all of us!

Read [Luke 4:16-21](#).

I wonder if Jesus felt a bit nostalgic about returning to His hometown. Verse 16 implies that Jesus's spiritual practice of engaging with God, God's Word, and God's people had been a pattern in His life. His presence there that day would have been welcomed.

When handed the scroll, what verses did Jesus choose to read?

What did He say after He sat down? (v.21)

Jesus did not mince words. He was claiming to be the Messiah and declaring why He came. *Who gave Him this authority? (v. 18)*

Re-read [Luke 4:18-19](#) in the Amplified version.

What was Jesus anointed to preach and to whom?

The good news is the message of salvation in Jesus Christ. The Kingdom of God came to earth in the person of God's own Son who brought with Him the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life ([Matthew 4:23](#)). The true essence of Christmas is truly found in the manger, but there is more.

Jesus's mission also included four other elements. What were they?

- Have you ever felt enslaved by guilt or sin?
- Are you in need of forgiveness?
- Have you ever experienced spiritual blindness?
- Have you ever felt oppressed or downtrodden?

If you answered yes to any of those questions, then you are why Jesus came. Embrace the mission of Jesus this Christmas for yourself. When you look at the manger in that all too familiar nativity scene, remind yourself that TODAY is the year of the Lord's favor!

Dear Lord, thank You for the miracle of Christmas. May our hearts burn with the truth of who Jesus is and why He came. Thank you, Lord, that because of Jesus, we don't have to live our lives tormented by guilt and shame. Open our spiritual eyes, Lord, and fill us with the love, peace, and joy that comes when we put our faith in Jesus. In His precious name we pray, Amen.