

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY



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REJECTED BY PEOPLE -ACCEPTED BY GOD!

Dear Chosen One:

The story in Luke 4:14-24 demonstrates how Jesus was rejected in His own hometown by many. The Bible says, *“Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him”* (vs. 14-15).

When Jesus went back to His hometown, the place where He grew up, He went into the synagogue and was appointed to read the Scripture. This Scripture was actually a prophecy spoken by the prophet Isaiah, and Jesus was the one to fulfill it. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to Jesus and He began to read: *“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor”* (Isaiah 61:1-2).

The Bible says that the Word that goes out from God’s mouth will not return empty but will accomplish what He desires (Isaiah 55:11). What I am trying to tell you is that every one of us has a spoken prophecy to fulfill in our lives. Whether it was revealed to you by the Holy Spirit or through other sources, God’s will shall be done.

When the right time comes, that spoken word will manifest. This is why we must be very careful about what we say or prophesy over our children and how we treat others. The Bible tells us that *“the tongue has the power of life and death”* (Proverbs 18:21).

As soon as Jesus read the Scripture, that prophecy came alive and was fulfilled in the view of all who were in the synagogue.

Jesus knew His true identity in the Father; therefore, He rolled up the scroll and took His seat in His rightful place. However, there was a big problem: the religious leaders were offended after He sat in the **"Messiah’s chair."** Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of Man and the Son of God, but they were looking for someone else. He didn’t fit their distinctiveness.

After accepting Jesus Christ as Savior, many will face this same problem when they come in contact with old friends. Those friends will still be looking for the old person you once were—especially for incarcerated individuals who are returning home saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Spirit.

People will hear about the good things you are doing, like witnessing and telling others about Jesus’ goodness and mercy. Your newfound character will demonstrate that you are a New Creation in Christ, but those without spiritual eyes will not be able to accept this truth. While your body remains the same, the change has happened in your spirit. Some will be amazed by the wonderful changes, while others will remain doubtful.

This is exactly what Jesus experienced. They were looking at the same Jesus they knew growing up in Nazareth, questioning His power to heal the sick, open blind eyes, and raise the dead. I am sure some were saying, **“Who does He think He is, doing all**

these miracles as if He is God?” Oh yes, Jesus was God in the flesh; that is why He was doing those things!

Unfortunately, God's thoughts and ways are baffling to the carnal mind. Jesus was God before He left home, and He was still God when He returned. John 1:1-2 says, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.”* The Word is Jesus.

People could not recognize Him because, like many in this era, they were spiritually blind. These religious leaders were faithful churchgoers, but their motives were wrong; perhaps they were only there for personal recognition. They missed out on the manifestation of prophecy because they perceived Jesus to be "just" like one of them—the son of Mary and Joseph.

The *world* may not recognize you, and some of your friends may not accept you when you are transformed. 2 Corinthians 4:4 says, *“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ.”* This is the work of Satan; he tries to keep the truth from being revealed.

If you are an unbeliever reading this, don't let the devil blind your mind. God can and will use all kinds of people to carry out His work. Even if you knew them before and they look the same, the Holy Spirit is within them.

As Christians, when we preach the Gospel, some will not accept the Word because they are looking at the vessel rather than the content—the powerful Word of God within us. This is especially true if old acquaintances know your former lifestyle. This can cause them to miss their own blessings. Thank God that Jesus came and liberated us from our past sins! *“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was*

crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5).

It is a privilege to bring you this Good News. As you go about your week, please reflect on these four questions:

- How do you see yourself?
- Is your perception based on how others view you?
- Are you looking at yourself through the world's lens?
- Whose validation are you believing: God's or people's?

The Identity of Jesus in the New Testament

The Promised One (Gospels): He is the Messiah, the Word of God made flesh, and the perfect Son of Man.

The Restorer (Acts – Galatians): He is our Justifier and Sanctifier who redeems us from the curse of the Law.

The Provider (Ephesians – Colossians): He is our spiritual armor, our total supply, and the full physical presence of God.

The Mediator (Thessalonians – Hebrews): He is our faithful Pastor, our High Priest, and the only bridge between God and man.

The Healer & Friend (James – Peter): He is our Great Physician, our healer by His stripes, and a friend closer than a brother.

The Essence of God (1, 2, 3 John): He is the literal definition of Love.

The Eternal King (Jude & Revelation): He is the First and the Last—the resurrected King of kings returning with His saints.

SEE YOURSELF HOW GOD SEES YOU!