

Blessed be the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Today, by God's abundant grace, you and I have been given the gift of another day. Every day is an opportunity to draw closer to Him through His Word — the light for our path (Psalm 119:105) and the bread that sustains our spiritual life (Matthew 4:4).

Today we are reflecting on a profound statement Jesus made at the very beginning of His earthly ministry — a declaration that launched His mission of redemption:

Luke 4:18-19 (NKJV):

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,

Because He has anointed Me

To preach the gospel to the poor;

He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,

To proclaim liberty to the captives

And recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;  
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

These words were read by Jesus in the synagogue at Nazareth, quoting from Isaiah 61:1-2. He concluded by saying, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing” (Luke 4:21) — thereby proclaiming that the long-awaited time of divine favor had finally arrived in Him.

□ What Is “The Acceptable Year of the Lord”?

In Scripture, “year” does not always refer to a 12-month calendar period. Often, it symbolizes an appointed season — a period determined by God for a specific purpose. In this case, “the acceptable year” refers to the dispensation of grace, the period of time when God’s mercy is extended to humanity through Jesus Christ.

Galatians 4:4-5 (NKJV):

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

This “acceptable year” is not about days or months, but a divinely ordained window of salvation — a spiritual Jubilee.

#### □ The Old Testament Shadow: Jubilee

The background of this phrase is rooted in the Old Testament concept of the Year of Jubilee, outlined in Leviticus 25. Every 50th year in Israel was a sacred time of release and restoration:

Land that had been sold reverted to its original owner (Leviticus 25:10).

Debts were canceled (Deuteronomy 15:1-2).

Slaves were set free.

The land rested from labor.

This was a year of mercy and freedom, and it beautifully prefigured what Christ would accomplish spiritually in the New Covenant. In the Jubilee, freedom was granted — in Christ, eternal freedom is offered.

Hebrews 10:1 (ESV):

For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities...

Jesus is our Jubilee. He came to declare release to those enslaved by sin, sight to those blinded by spiritual darkness, and healing to the brokenhearted.

John 8:36 (NKJV):

Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

□ What Changed with Jesus' Coming?

Before Christ came, access to God's presence was extremely limited. Only the High Priest could enter the Most Holy Place in the temple, and only once a year, with the blood of a sacrifice, to atone for the sins of the people — including his own (Hebrews 9:7).

But that system only covered sin temporarily; it never removed it.

Hebrews 10:4 (NKJV):

For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

When Christ died, the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51), symbolizing that direct access to God was now open to all through His blood.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV):

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Now, in Christ, we are not only forgiven — we are adopted (Romans 8:15), sealed with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13), and seated in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6). We are in ongoing communion with God as sons and daughters.

□ But This Season of Favor Has an End

While we are still living in the “acceptable year of the Lord,” this season of mercy will not last forever.

The same Jesus who now intercedes as High Priest will soon return as Judge. Once He rises from His throne of intercession, the door of grace will be shut.

Revelation 22:11-12 (NKJV):

He who is unjust, let him be unjust still... and he who is holy, let him be holy still.

And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me...

Luke 13:24-28 (NKJV):

Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able... when once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door...

This is why now is the time to respond.

2 Corinthians 6:2 (NKJV):

In an acceptable time I have heard you,

And in the day of salvation I have helped you.

Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

If you wait until the door is shut, it will be too late. No amount of religious tradition or outward knowledge will save you when the Bridegroom comes (Matthew 25:1-13).

### □ What Must You Do?

If you're still living far from Christ, don't delay. This is your hour. Repent, confess your sins, and believe in the Lord Jesus with all your heart.

Acts 3:19 (NKJV):

Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

Then, be baptized for the remission of sins and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38 (NKJV):

Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

## † Conclusion

The “acceptable year of the Lord” is now — a season of divine grace, salvation, healing, and restoration. But the time is short. Let every heart that hears this message prepare to meet the Lord in peace.

Isaiah 55:6-7 (NKJV):

Seek the Lord while He may be found,

Call upon Him while He is near.

Let the wicked forsake his way,

And the unrighteous man his thoughts;

Let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him...

May the Lord bless you and give you grace to respond while the door of mercy is still open.

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