

Sermon for Sun. Feb. 3, 4th Sun. of Epiphany -from Scott Benson

Texts: Jer. 1:4-10 Ps. 71:1-6 I Cor. 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

When a Young Kid declares “*When I grow up I’m going to be the
-President -Scientist who cures Cancer
-or the One who creates a machine to clean out all that plastic from our
Oceans*”

.... BUT – if they say that at 30 or 40 years Old...*Hmmm*

Pray (*asking God to bless these words and us as we hear the Word*)

What Jesus said in our Luke text is kind of like that...only
Exponentially Greater ! this is beyond ancient Scripture on Seroids!
Jesus selects a Scroll - & Reads it – from Isaiah (1 of greatest prophets)
& then tells them **‘I am the One this Scripture is talking about !!!!**
& Where did he say this? In his Home Town !!

...pause...

One of the kids I worked with for years; took to our Synod Youth Events,
Is now in college. He did not make his college Soccer team
But IS on their track team...In fact..his times may put him **in the Olympics!**
At first, I’m thinking- ***What ?! I Know this Kid!***
I know his family, I know Where he grew up !
And then I remember...a Stop Watch doesn’t lie.
WOW – this is Great! I want to Hear More.
(short pause)

For many, Church is just 1 more activity – 1 more commitment...even obligation
And Jesus...well...we heard about him
& it’s true we Lutherans are far more ‘Both/And’ People than ‘Either/Or’
After all, we begin worship by confessing that we Messed up Again,
We sin, we have to keep a sense of humor about ourselves
But THIS text is an **Either / Or Moment**
Either He is the guy that Isaiah said would come, or, He is Not
Either Jesus **IS the Messiah / Christ** or he is not
(...pause...)

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(2)

And lest you think that is overdramatic, look at what Jesus says.

*'You say I can't be the Messiah because I grew up here,
And you call me to create a Sign, a Miracle as I did down the hill
At Capernaum...Do you not remember the Prophets:*

There were plenty of starving widows in Israel,

But Elijah miraculously provided food to a Widow in Sidon (not in Israel)

And there were plenty of lepers in Israel and Judah, but Elisha heals

Naaman who is from Syria

& not only is he a foreigner, but also a military threat.

God does not seem to limit ministry, & even miracles & signs to Only

"our kind of people" ...whether in our home town or a foreign land

"Before I formed you in the womb" is written of, but not limited to Jeremiah.

Our Lord Jesus made clear that He was called...& if Jesus is called as Christ

...then we too are called to serve in Christ

...Is not I Corinthians 13 the very definition of our call to love?

As to how each church and each disciple is called...we shall see.

And, no doubt, some, if not all of us may balk at specific roles and assignments

and say: *'but I'm too young, too old...busy...and I don't speak so good...*

Do You remember the Rest of the Promise...in Jeremiah and the Gospels?

Our Lord says ***"I will be with you – Do not be afraid"***

Even in your Home Town and Church.

Amen