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AN EXEGETICAL STUDY OF LUKE 4:18-19 AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR
THE CONTEMPORARY CHURCH

BY

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ABSTRACT

Anointing is one of the major misuse term among Christian today most especially among church leaders, while some use God's anointing on their life to gather riches unto themselves, there still other that use it effectively to meet the needs of their congregation and others outside the church. As result of this thesis underscores the anointing of Jesus by tracing the history of anointing in the Bible and contemporary. It also examines what Luke 4:18-19 meant to the first recipient by carry out an exegetical study of the text. The deduction of the study was finally applied on the contemporary church.

In order to bring out the real meaning of the text an exegetical analysis of Luke 4:18-19 was done with the aim of knowing what text meant to the original recipient. Hence, a deductive study was carried out by the researcher, using a historical interpretation method. Based on this deductive study, the researcher was able to find out that the anointing on Jesus as recorded in Luke 4:18-19 is meant to meet both the physical and the spiritual need of men in all ages. As observed by the researcher, the itemized purpose of Christ' anointing should be the focus of the church because it addresses both the spiritual and physical needs of men in all generation. Hence, it's should be the purpose of the church of God at all ages. This deduction leads the researcher to apply his findings to the contemporary church.

There is no iota of doubt in the researcher minds that if the church follows the pattern of Christ' anointing in determining the purpose of the church, the church will become a true agent of God on earth. Hence, the researcher recommended that church leaders should endeavor to focus on the need of their church member holistically (physically and spiritually). This could be done by combining the preaching and teaching of God's with social ministry.

This work examines the text (Luke 4:18-19), by carrying out an exegetical study in order to bring out the meaning of the text without altering what it meant to the original recipients.

5.2 CONCLUSION

God has clearly shown that his pattern of empowerment is anointing because all who are involved in his service were anointed by him before service. This anointing symbolized the entrance of the Holy Spirit into a man in order to empower him for service. The event that happens in Luke 4:18-19 present to all generation the fulfillment of Scripture because all that was written by the Old Testament prophets about the messiah came to pass at the reading of Isa. 61:1-2 by Jesus. Since this anointing was meant to meet both the physical and the spiritual needs of all men, the church also as matter of urgency should know that the anointing of God on its leader is meant to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of all.

The purpose of Jesus anointing as indicated by Luke in Luke 4:18-19, gives all churches a perfect example that they are set up by God to meets the needs of people both spiritual and physical. Therefore churches irrespective of denomination are God's representative on earth and they are empowered by Christ anointing to meet both the spiritual and physical needs of all people. Hence their focus should be on both the spiritual and physical needs of the people. There is a serious need for balancing between the spiritual and physical needs of the people. Emphasizing on one need at the expense of the other will lead to deviation from God's main purpose of anointing his church. Therefore church leaders should endeavor to avoid the two extremes.

Therefore the church should be in the forefront of alleviating the great social, economic, psychological and physical burden that is confronting the world today. As God's agent on earth they should show concern to those who are daily facing economic hardship by providing both material and word of encouragement for them. It will not be out of place if the church is in forefront of campaigning against things like oppression of the less privileged in our society. They can also be involved in providing relief materials to those who are affected either by natural disaster or by war. This will become possible by establishment of a social ministry in all of our churches and also churches in the same localities can join forces together to assist the downtrodden in our society. When this is done the whole world will see the church as truly God's agent on earth. The most important aspect of this study is that the church must endeavor to do all of this holistically because the only way to completely restore a man to a state of wholeness is by meeting both his spiritual and physical need. As the church focuses on all of these, the church should always remember that this can only be made possible by the empowerment of God through the Holy Spirit.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the finding of this study it's clear that the source of Jesus' anointing is God and because of this anointing he is the anointed one (the Christ). It is also clear that the anointing on him enables him to carry out specific assignments among men; this assignment could be regarded as his six-fold ministry among men. This six-fold ministry of Jesus is meant to meet both the spiritual and the physical needs of the people. Hence, the church which is the body of Christ needs to follow Jesus' example by meeting the spiritual and the physical need of both its members and that of the society. This is so because just as Jesus was anointed, the church also received its own

anointing to carry one the mandate given to Jesus by God through the anointing (Act 1:8).

These following recommendations are put forward by this researcher for the church: First, the leader should endeavor to focus on the need of their church member holistically (physically and spiritually). Second, creation of social ministry should be done by the church so that members' physical needs will be addressed just as the anointing of Christ indicated. This social ministry will serve as a means to reach out to people who are outside the church. During the time of disaster in the world such as natural disaster, this social ministry could be a means of extending the love of God to those affected by the disaster. Third, the church should also be involved in ministry to the blind, the poor, the depressed, mentally ill people, the prisoner and all those who are afflicted politically, economically and otherwise. Fourth, with the present increasing rate of protest in the Eastern part of the world, there is a need for the church to be involved in giving orientation to their member on how to handle oppression that arises as a result of bad governance. Fifth, church leader should endeavor to handle the word of God properly so that some fundamental concept of the church like anointing will no longer be misused.

Recommendation for theological institution:

First, in-debt training on fundamentals of the church such as doctrine, practice theology etc. should be done for pastors in training so that the rate of misuse of fundamentals will be reduced. Second, in-debt study should be done in area of anointing both in the Old Testament and New Testament. This could be done by making anointing core part theological courses of the seminary.