

**WEEK 2 REFLECTION**  
*The West Bank – Lydia's story*

Luke 4:14-21

14 Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. 15 He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

18 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

## **Pr. Matt's study & writing helps:**

1. After reading the passage above, go to your Bible and read verses 22-30 (the part right after this). This whole section is about the very beginning of Jesus' ministry. Look again at verses 18-21 - What does it say that Jesus' very first public sermon says this? What do you think about a God who basically says, "this is what I'm going to be about – healing people and bringing good news to the poor..."? If look ahead in the Bible, notice that right after this whole event, Jesus goes about doing exactly the things he said – healing people! The folks at Nazareth reject Jesus for this – why do you think they do this? Why are they bothered by the fact that he is going to help others who are in more need than they are?

2. In your Study Bible, look at the study notes at the bottom of the page to see if you can learn anything else interesting about this passage.

3. Read Lydia's story ("*Story2 WestBank.pdf*", available on the church's website). Consider WHY God asks us to care for those in need. Do we do it to prove we are good people? Do we do it to earn a place in heaven? Is there something deeper going on here? Why do you think Lydia did what she did?

4. For your reflection, write 2-3 paragraphs about what you think this passage means for the modern church of 2012. Be careful not to make your paragraphs too much about what we "should" do, but focus on WHY we would help those in need (see Question #3 above).

### OTHER IDEAS FOR YOUR PARAGRAPHS:

1. You could name the places in our modern world where you see need.
2. You could tell about a time you helped someone and how that felt
3. You could tell about a time you saw someone in need and how that felt
4. You could tell about a time when you or someone you know was in need
5. You could talk about what you want to do when you grow up and how that might meet the needs of others
6. You could talk with your family about one thing you could do to respond to this passage. (*Hint: It isn't always about money! Is there anything else you could do live in a way that reflects the values in this passage?*)

You can contact me by e-mail, Facebook, or phone for help with this!

5. E-mail me ([pr\\_matt@hotmail.com](mailto:pr_matt@hotmail.com)) or send me a Facebook message with a draft of your paragraphs one week before your assigned Wednesday. That way, I can help you edit it and get it ready to read in church.

*Don't forget – you are not on your own here – I believe that you have something important to share & I am here to help you find the right words!*