

Jesus' Approach in Liberation of the Poor, Luke 4:18-19: Lesson for Nigerian Leaders

Authors : Aboekwe, Mary Emilia

Abstract : Jesus' mission was not only a religious one but had social and political implications. From the birth to the death of Jesus, God's message of liberation is proclaimed in and through Jesus. This work studied Jesus' inaugural mission in Luke 4: 18-19 in the context of Nigerian leaders. A theological interpretation was adopted and it was discovered that Luke 4: 18-19 unfolded Jesus' mission statement. This mission statement centered in preaching the good news to the poor, the release of the captives, healing the sick, liberation to the oppressed, and favour and abundance in the land. Related to the Jewish-Roman world of Jesus and the Nigerian nation, it was discovered that most of the maladies enumerated in Jesus' inaugural mission statement were prevalent in Nigerian society. Maladies like poverty, oppression, violence, sickness and diseases are widespread in Nigeria. Poverty affects all, irrespective of gender, religion, or ethnicity. There is insecurity everywhere. Unemployment bites harder on Nigeria's youthful population, and they are unable to find a job at the prevailing wage rate. To this effect, therefore, this study proposes Jesus' liberative technique as a solution to these maladies prevalent in the country. The work equally challenged the Nigerian leaders to emulate Jesus' mission statement and take proactive measures in fighting against these social challenges resident in Nigeria today.

Keywords : liberation, leadership, maladies, poverty

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