

*"Connecting the Dots!"*

[Please keep in mind, **this is the very abbreviated version** of the Sunday sermon and much is missing, so make sure you get the Marvell/Lexa Messenger for the whole Sermon and more!] Luke 4:14-21!

Perhaps you've seen one of those black and white pictures where you stare at some dots in the center for 30-60 seconds. After the required time has elapsed, you close your eyes and should see a reversed image of the picture. We used the familiar picture of Jesus Sunday morning! It's a cool image, but if you only glance at it briefly, all you'll see are the four dots and a slightly blurry image. But if you take a longer look, you'll see a very cool picture of the real image that its creator intended! This illusion is known as a negative afterimage. In essence your brain does something akin to developing your photographic negatives to have a nice photo to put in a frame! Pretty cool, eh?

As our passage for this morning opens, Jesus was revealing one of the many "dots" that were given so the people could get a glance at His true image as the Messiah of Israel. Now, I'm probably not giving anything away here, but many folks didn't look long enough to see the true glory and majesty of the entire picture of Jesus as the Messiah. Luke introduces Jesus as a teacher who had been teaching in various synagogues throughout the region of Galilee. Jesus had not only been teaching, but He has been teaching with power and authority like no other person had taught. Then Jesus arrives in Nazareth. This is His childhood home, where he played and worshipped. Jesus entered the synagogue that must have held many special memories for him as he was growing up. As a child, He attended that Synagogue with His mother Mary, Joseph, and his brothers and sisters. He knew the people; he knew their faces. He could have called many of them by name. Perhaps there were even aunts and uncles, cousins, and many dearly beloved family and friends that he had made growing up in that small Nazareth town and synagogue. It was an ordinary day that was to become extraordinary. I changed when Jesus returned home. I can only imagine that those in attendance at the service were expecting the usual elements. On this particular Sabbath, Jesus read from a section of the Prophets. In that day, He would have stood on a special platform, as was the custom. Jesus was given the scroll of His choosing, which was the scroll of *Isaiah* Jesus unrolled the scroll, found the right place, and began to read: <sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, <sup>19</sup> and that the time of the Lord's favor has come." Putting it in every day terms, this was the messianic job description, already familiar to synagogue worshippers. This would have not normally caused the even slightest stir, but what happened next most certainly caused some eyebrows to raised! Instead of just stopping at the end of the passage, he reinterpreted it before their ears and eyes. In what had to be a dramatic moment, Jesus rolled the scroll back up, handed it to the attendant, and sat down. There must have been one of these moments of great anticipation, because Luke tells us that, "All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. <sup>21</sup> Then he began to speak to them. 'The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!'" What a moment that must have been! To utter such words aloud before your own relatives in your own home town synagogue! That required boldness and a definite leading by the Holy Spirit. In reading this portion of the Scriptures, Jesus was saying that His life work would be to (1) Heal the brokenhearted, (2) Announce the release of the captives, (3) Recover sight to the blind, and (4) Announce the acceptable year of the Lord. When Jesus said this, in essence, He was saying that they could no longer view him simply as the village carpenter or the son of Mary and Joseph, but that He was the one they have been waiting to come for all of their lives, the lives of their grandparents, and the generations before them!

Let me leave you with a pair of Scriptures and a challenging question: (1) "Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God." (2 Corinthians 5:20) In this passage, Paul is clearly saying that we are called to be ambassadors for Christ. An ambassador is a legal representative, appointed by Christ, who represents the kingdom of God through his or her words and actions. That's you! (2) Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father." (John 14:12) I don't believe that Jesus was expecting us to walk on water or even raise the dead, but since heart of His ministry was to introduce Himself as the Messiah and open the gates of Heaven to all who would call on His name, then we should, as His Ambassadors be at doing at least that much. But taking it a step further, we also need to "heal the broken hearted" with our words, actions, and lives. We can see how all the dots of His life formed the glorious image of the Messiah, but what will others see when they look at our lives? Will they see an image that reflects Jesus or an image that reflects the world? Will they see an ambassador for Christ who represents the kingdom through you your words and actions?

Let it always be the image of Christ that is projected through your words and your life! Remember always that you have been blessed to be a blessing. So be one!

Brother Gary

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**Calendar for the Week**

**Wednesday**

9:00 a.m. Exercise  
5:00 p.m. Youth/WOW

**Thursday**

10:00 a.m. Classics  
5:00 p.m. Exercise

**Friday**

9:00 a.m. Exercise

**Sunday**

9:00 a.m. Lexa Worship  
9:55 a.m. Marvell SS  
11:00 a.m. Marvell Worship  
12:00 p.m. Souper Bowl for Caring Meal

**Sunday**

4:30 p.m. Bible Study  
5:00 p.m. Super Bowl Party

**Monday**

5:00 p.m. Exercise

**Tuesday**

10:00 a.m. Farm Meeting

**Greeter - Toney Keys**

**Liturgist - Bryan Wayman**

**Acolytes - Kailin/Wesley**

**Youth SS - Bryan Wayman**

**Nursery - Connie Heidelberger**

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**STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

2019 Budget	\$172,685
Needed each week	3,321
Received this week	1,957
Capital Improvements	45

**ATTENDANCE**

Lexa Worship	7
Marvell Sunday School	44
Marvell Worship	72
Bible Study	15

**DINNER THEATER**

The Annual Marvell Dinner Theater will be February 15 & 16; tickets are \$30. Let Barbie or Nina know if you can help & if you want tickets.

**OPEN DOOR FOOD PANTRY**

Monetary gifts are needed to restock the Open Door Food Pantry. Please get your donation to Beth Schaffhauser or put in the offering plate.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Luke Schaffhauser - 1814 Aggie Rd, Jonesboro 72401  
Ashlyn Lundquist - 1537 Hwy 318 S, Marvell Dr 2/5  
Boopie Schell - Box 671, Marvell  
Zach Reed - 300 N Pine, Marvell  
Betty Calhoon - Box 537, Elaine 72333  
Bonnie Harper - Box 537, Elaine 72333  
Glenn Loomis - 390 Hwy 316 S, Poplar Grove 72374  
Rickey Little - 1162 Hwy 318 S, Marvell  
Christy Billingsley - Box 24, Aubrey 72311  
Summer Lay - 100 Harper Cove Ln, Star City 71667  
Courtney Turner - Box 1602, Marvell  
Suzy Baldwin - Melbourne, AR  
Billy Washburn - 2640 Kenwood Rd, Bartlett, TN  
Brittany Elliott - Lexa  
Katlynn McCoy - 2919 Phillips 251, Lexa 72355  
Miranda Racca - %Sue Burgess - 2013 Aspen,  
Lewisville, TX 75077 (in CA to see a specialist)  
Chuck Ligon - Box 128, Marvell  
Johnny Smith - 4216 Hwy 243 W, Lexa 72355  
Johnny Gschwend - Box 425, Marvell  
Tommy Cooper - 403 Mixon, Marvell  
Officer Rodney Blocker - LR  
Helena UMC - 502 Porter, Helena 72342  
John Heuer - 9476 Trotter Lane, Harrison 72601  
Barrett Michael Miller - Children's, LR  
Frankie Broom - Crestpark #128, 116 November Dr  
Clara Bass - 2975 Shelton Rd N, Bee Branch 72013  
Carrie Davison - Box 711, Marvell  
Mildred Clatworthy - Box 1308, Marvell  
Gloria Higginbotham - 16175 Hwy 49, Marvell  
Louis Aycock - 297 Phillips 367, Poplar Grove 72374  
Ruby Jean Turner - 2852 Harmony Hills Dr, Arnold,  
MO 63010  
Opal Muscalino - Box 8, Lexa 72355  
Gloria Treadaway - Box 22, Lexa 72355  
Janette Griffin - Box 126, Lexa 72355  
Jimmy & Donna Allen - 2800 N Vine, Magnolia  
Vester Byrd - TX (Melissa Maskell's dad)  
Sanda Whitmer Andrews - 373 Melbourne Dr, Haines  
City, FL 33844 (friend of Mickie Cox)  
Dorothy Young Thompson - Opelika, AL  
Walter Breckenridge - Box 610, McCrory 72101  
John Armstrong - Box 265, Balmorhea, TX 79718  
Corporal Clayton McWilliams - Texas  
Kaitlyn Johnson - Cindy Clemons sister  
Drew Perkins - Memphis  
Mark & Alexis Stringer & unborn baby - 1307  
Carmichael St, Malvern 72104  
Cora Blair - Crestpark, 116 November Dr, Helena  
Jackie Fitch - 245 PC 251, Lexa 72355  
Gene Pate - Dallas, TX Melissa Maskell's uncle  
Shelley Bonin - Benton - Melissa Maskell's aunt  
Ian Miller - 36 Fontwell Ln, Franklin, TN 37064  
Ronnie Isbell - Springfield, MO  
Paul Steiner - Box 505, Marvell treatments  
Ashley Bobo - Box 2, Helena 72342  
Floyd McKee - 108 SW 98th St, OK City, OK 73139  
Jan Hickey & Paula Oliver - 1039 Park Hill, Helena  
Harold Cummings-95 Rocky Top Rd, Mayflower 72106  
Elizabeth Aycock - 1254 CR 1750, London, AR  
Enicita Cantilang - %Rhea Cumberland - Box 32  
Jason Webb - 3109 NE 66th Terrace, Gladstone, MO  
Becca Campbell - 1015 Lancelot, Russellville 72801  
Hubert Smith - 1415 Main #12, Marvell  
Jerry Robertson - 2061 Hwy 242 W, Lexa 72355  
Vern Hamelback - TN  
Sherry Tuminello - 1204 E 19th St, Stuttgart 72160  
Delores Jackson - Box 13, Marvell

Jody Cook - 6253 Basilone St, Tarawa Terrace, NC  
Doris Wallace - 301 N Pine, Marvell  
Alan Wildschuetz - 5 Bear Trail Cove, LR 72210  
Billy Moore - 2371 Phillips 625, Marvell  
Kevin Forrester- 1565 N State Hwy 8, New Boston, TX  
Jennifer Heavner - 209 W Ash St, Brinkley 72029  
Lee Scarbrough - Uganda  
Landon Jones - 5460 Fox Den, Hernando, MS 38632  
Sandra Myton - Box 103, Marvell  
Ken Beyleu & family - 2709 Onate , Roswell, NM  
88201 (death of his son)  
Our Country Travelers Victims of natural disasters  
Service men & women, Police Officers, Firefighters &  
Emergency Personnel & their families

## **PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING**

Glenn Loomis' surgery went well & he is home  
Mildred Clatworthy got a good report last week  
Kerry Densmore is in the choir  
Jennifer King is going next month to become a trainer  
for the adoption program & hopes to get it in our area  
Ashley Bobo has finished her treatments early

## **MEMORIALS**

### **CALVIN BASS**

Shelton & Nina Guest  
Mary Henderson

### **GINGER HALL**

David Hill  
Danny & Gale Lammers

### **SHEILA KEMMER**

Jimmy & Bettie Davison

### **BROTHER MIKE WILKIE**

Bill & Jo Turner

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Jan 31 - Sydney Williams

## **THANKS**

Greeter - Toney Keys, Bryan Wayman, London Boone  
Acolytes - AnnCarol Hall/Kailey Hollaway  
Liturgist - Debbie Hayes  
Musician - Courtney Turner  
Ushers - Gene Davison, Bill Heidelberger, Frank Polk,  
Winston Turner  
Nursery - Delia Travis, Barbie Washburn  
Video Tech - Wesley Turner  
Media Techs - Chuck Schaffhauser/Thomas Turner

## **NURSERY**

Due to the number of children we will have moving up  
in the nursery we need to focus on our age policy.  
Please remember the nursery ages are birth to 2 and 3  
to 5 yrs old. The children of our church are very  
precious to us. I ask that members & parents please  
help with this. Your child may have a hard time  
adapting to big church, but I know they will enjoy it.  
Snacks, a coloring book, books etc. may help with this  
process. If you have any questions, please contact  
Jennifer King.

## **MURDER MYSTERY**

The Kiwanis Club of Helena/West Helena are  
presenting *Murder at the Juice Joint* this Friday, Feb.  
1, at 6 p.m. at Phillips College; call Lisa Polk or Jo  
Turner for tickets.

**Please keep your calendar & if you are not going to  
be here when you are scheduled please get a sub.**

**HELP US**  
**TACKLE HUNGER**


**FREE!** SOUPS, SANDWICHES & DESSERTS!  
ALL ARE INVITED!

**SOUP & SANDWICH FUNDRAISER LUNCH**  
**FEBRUARY 3 @ NOON**  
**HOSTED BY**  
**BREAKTHROUGH YOUTH GROUP**

MEAL SERVED AFTER WORSHIP AT MARVELL UMC  
DONATIONS DEEPLY APPRECIATED  
TO GO ORDERS AVAILABLE BY REQUEST

**All Proceeds Benefit the Open Door Food Pantry SM**

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**



We need all youth to bring sandwiches already made (however many a loaf will make) and a dessert. Please be at church with your food items by 9:45 am. We will serve/clean up after worship. Plan to be there until all cleanup is over!