

Text

Luke 4:1-30

Main Point

Christ is Fully Furnished for his Mediatorial Work

Introduction (300)

Hook

We have all heard of the SAS.

From hostage rescue, to operations behind enemy lines, the SAS are some of the most renowned soldiers in the world.

The SAS are renowned and achieve their goal because they are fully furnished for their task.

- They have through gruelling training, pushing them both physically and mentally.
- Their body and their mind are ready for the field.
- They have state-of-the-art gear and weapons.
- They have up to date intel and coms.
- And of course, they have the support from their commander and their nation.

And so, being fully furnished, they are able to free the hostages and eliminate the threat.

Today we are going to think of another who is fully furnished for his work. Another who has hostages to rescue, another who was dropped behind enemy lines as it were.

This evening we will consider that Jesus is fully furnished for his work as our Mediator.

Outline/Link/Background

This continues our study of the 1689 confession of faith.

Over the last few months we have we have studying the Person of Christ. This has been a deep dive which has pushed our human minds.

There is one last thing to consider about the Person of Jesus Christ, before we turn our attention to the works of Jesus Christ.

Today we consider the work of the Holy Spirit in the life and ministry of Jesus. The confession makes a point of highlighting this as key to Jesus being fully furnished for his work.

Let me read paragraph 3 of Chapter 8 as we begin.

From the confession

The Lord Jesus, in his human nature thus united to the divine, in the person of the Son, was sanctified and anointed with the Holy Spirit above measure, having in Him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge; in whom it pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell, to the end that being holy, harmless, undefiled, and full of grace and truth, he might be thoroughly furnished to execute the office of mediator and surety; which office he took not upon himself, but was thereunto called by his Father; who also put all power and judgement in his hand, and gave him commandment to execute the same.

The main thrust of this paragraph is that Jesus is fully furnished for his work as mediator

Part 1 – Brief Recap

Exposition

As we consider the statement that Jesus is fully furnished, think back at what we have learned so far about the Person of Jesus.

Deity

We saw that Jesus was fully God. He was and is divine.

Jesus did things that only God can do, such as forgive sins and accept worship.

Jesus displayed divine attributes such as Omniscience and existing from Eternity

He claimed and accepted divine titles such as Lord and “Son of Man”.

Jesus Christ is God and worthy of worship.

Humanity

But we also learned about the full humanity of Jesus.

That Jesus had an outer man body that got tired and hungry, that felt pain and even died. And he also had an inner man just like you and me, with emotions and feelings.

What more, he faced the same trials as any human faces, but never sinned. He was busy, harassed, stressed, financially poor and slandered.

He lived in this world as a human and knows our struggles not merely by omniscience, but by experience,

He was like us in his humanity, but also unlike us, because he was without sin.

Incarnation

And so we wrestled with the idea of the Son of God becoming man. We pondered the mystery of the incarnation.

Like trying to explain an circle to someone who only understands straight lines, so is the human language unable to fully explain the incarnation.

But we know that He humbled himself and took the form of a servant and was born in the likeness of men.

We affirm the mystery even though we do not understand it fully: Jesus Christ is both fully God and fully man in one Person.

Virgin Birth

But the wonder about the Person of Jesus did not end there. We explored the miracle of the Virgin Birth, which further showed how furnished Jesus really is for his role of Mediator.

The virgin birth proclaims how salvation is the work of God alone but, at the same time the humanity of Jesus is linked to the whole human race by virtue of Mary's human nature.

By the virgin birth we see that Jesus is both like us but also very much unlike us.

The virgin birth gives no room for the idea that Jesus was somehow adopted later in his life by God the Father.

The virgin birth is the long awaited fulfilment of the messianic hope for both the Jews and the Gentiles

Same Essence as the Father

And deeper we went into the truths about Person of Jesus Christ. We turned our attention to the creeds of the early church, where the early Christians wrestled with the biblical evidence about who Jesus is.

First we saw the Nicene creed which affirmed that the son is eternally begotten and of the same essence as the Father.

The Son is begotten not made.

Like light is from a light source, the son is God from God. And so it was affirmed that Jesus, the son of God is the same essence as the father.

Because Jesus is eternally begotten, he is God.

One Person and two natures

And finally we turned our attention to the council of Chalcedon. From this creed we saw that Jesus Christ is:

Not half human

Not two persons

Nor a strange combination of two natures

He is One person with two distinct natures without conversion, composition, or confusion.

Application

Worthy because of who he is

This is but a brief recap of the terrain we have travelled so far. Jesus is Fully God, Fully man, the Incarnate Son of God, Born of a virgin, Of the same essence as the Father and one Person with two natures.

And even in our eight or so sermons together, we have but scratched the surface of what can be understood about the person of Jesus.

But we have a good framework, and just like a builder's house is never finished, we will never stop building on that framework until He returns or we see him fully face to face.

But even the truths our small brains can grasp are enough for us to worship him.

Even one of these truths is enough for us to worship him.

He is worthy of our worship, of our trust, and of our love simply based on who he is. What he has done does not need to come into the picture for us bow down in full submission and worship.

There is no one like him.

He is the Son of God Incarnate.

Link

As said before, there is one more thing I want us to consider about Person of Jesus Christ.

And it is simply this: that He was also filled with the Holy Spirit. As well as all these things we have

reminded ourselves of, in his human nature, He was controlled and impelled by the Holy Spirit.

He is the Son of God Incarnate, full of the Holy Spirit.

And thus thoroughly furnished to execute the office of mediator.

As the 1689 puts it

[He] was sanctified and anointed with the Holy Spirit above measure, having in Him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge; That....he might be thoroughly furnished to execute the office of mediator and surety;

With our remaining time, we are going to look at two events which highlight this fact and wonder.

Part 2 – Holy Spirit With Him as a Child

Exposition

Record of Child in the Temple – Luke 2

One account which highlights the presence of the Holy Spirit with Jesus Christ is found in Luke chapter 2. At first glance you may wonder if we are really seeing the Spirit at work, but as we shall see He is there in a very real way.

Turn with me, to Luke chapter 2.

Luke has been recording the events surrounding the Birth of Jesus and then in 40 he sums up Jesus' growing up from an infant to a child.

Luke 2:40

⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Then in verses 41-52 we have the account where Jesus and his parents go to Jerusalem. On their return journey, the parents accidentally leave their son behind. They go back to look for him and find him discussing deep theology with the teachers of the Law, to the great amazement of those around.

We get the climax of the story in verse 46-47:

Luke 2:46-47

⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

And then Luke concludes this account of Jesus's childhood with a similar phrase as it began. Luke 2:52:

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature^[i] and in favor with God and man.

Drawing two points from the account

I want us to notice two things from this account.

First is that Luke highlights that Jesus is growing in favour with God. This statement basically bookends the account.

The favour of God was upon him. The approval, support or the delight of God was upon Him.

And the second thing to notice is Jesus's deep understanding of the scripture. He was able to discuss with the professors of the day and amaze them with his answers.

Truths of Ps 119 at Play

These two things, the favour of the Lord and understanding of scripture are significant. They are an application, even a fulfilment of Old Testament truths.

First of thinking of Jesus's understanding of scripture, turn with me to Psalm Ps 119:99-100.

There we read:

*⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for your testimonies are my meditation.*

*¹⁰⁰ I understand more than the aged,^[a]
for I keep your precepts.*

These verses are fascinating.

It is saying that Biblical truth, God's word, gives more wisdom than experience. Meditating on God's word gives more understanding than years of experience.

And that is exactly what we see at play in the account of Jesus as a child.

Fulfilment of Isiah's prophecies

That is one piece of the puzzle, but what about the Lord's favour or delight on Jesus? What is that pointing us to. What is that alluding to?

This takes us to the Book of Isiah. Specifically, Isa 42:1. This verse is God talking about the "Servant of the Lord" the expected messiah. In verse 1 we read:

*Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, **in whom my soul delights**;
I have put **my Spirit** upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.*

Luke is showing us that this is being fulfilled even in the childhood of Jesus. The Lord delights or favours Jesus and has put his Spirit upon him.

And it is the Spirit which gives wisdom and understanding.

Again, talking of the Messiah, Isa 11:1-2 makes this explicit connection:

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,

and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

² *And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,*

the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the Spirit of counsel and might,

the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Discussion-Favour, Understanding, Spirit Filled

So when we follow the hints Luke puts forth for us, we can see that this account of Jesus' Childhood is declaring that Jesus is full of the Holy Spirit even at a young age.

Throughout the gospels, sometimes the deity of Jesus is put to the forefront, but in this account his humanity filled with the holy spirit is put to the forefront.

Here is the messiah, the servant of the Lord, finding favour and delighting the Lord. Here is Jesus showing wisdom well beyond his age because he has studied scripture and the scripture has been illuminated to him by the Holy Spirit.

Application

More wisdom with scripture than from experience/age

It is good for us to pause here and recognise what this account is teaching us.

Just think about it.

Jesus was able to confound the learned people of his day because he was spirit-filled and he had studied the word of God. Psalm 119 makes that very clear and Jesus illustrates it.

There is more wisdom in a Christian explaining scripture, than from someone who relies on their years of experience.

Make careful note of that as you seek wisdom for things in your life, for comfort, encouragement or direction. Do you seek wisdom from God's word? Or just from experience?

And as you, as a spirit filled believer, give advice and counsel, if it is based on God's word, you can be confident that it holds weight and is valid.

You don't need to have recovered from alcoholism to give valid and good advice to one who is struggling with addiction.

You don't need 20 years of marriage to give biblical marriage advice.

A spirit-filled believer giving advice based on God's word is far superior to mere experience.

Part 3 – Anointed and Empowered

Exposition

Anointed for his Work as OT expects Him to be.

With that said, let us move on to our second account. This time showing how Jesus is anointed by the Holy Spirit. This time the work of the Holy Spirit is at the very surface of the text.

Please turn to Luke 3:21-22 with me.

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son;”^[c] with you I am well pleased.”^[d]

As you know, this account marks the beginning of Jesus’s public ministry. But there is much more in view than his public ministry. And in these verses, after Jesus is baptised, we see the Holy Spirit descending on him which inaugurate him into his role of mediator.

The holy spirit is anointing him as Mediator.

Explain voice

The voice of the Father explains what the Holy Spirit descending on Him signifies.

First there is the phrase “*You are my Son.*” Now this contains kingly overtones. We think of Samuel 7 and Psalm 2 looking forward to the ultimate King, the Son of God who would rule the people of God for eternity.

And the second phrase also points back to Old Testament anticipation, “*With you I am well pleased*”.

This is pointing back to the “Servant of the Lord” from Isaiah in whom the Lord delights. The Messiah spoken of in Isaiah.

And so, with the descent of the Holy Spirit, we see the anointing of Jesus as the Messiah. He is anointed in fulfillment of Old Testament expectations.

Discussion on Anointed

This is a big moment for Israel and for humanity. The Messiah has been anointed.

Think of David who was anointed to be King of Israel by the Prophet Samuel with oil. In the same way that David was set apart by God for that task, Jesus is anointed as mediator in this moment. Anointed not with oil, but with the Holy Spirit.

Whole ministry led by the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit anoints and also equips Jesus for the work ahead.

In fact, the whole ministry of Jesus is led and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Turn with me to Luke 4

Notice in verse 1:

*And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was **led by the Spirit** in the wilderness*

Jesus is led into the desert by the Holy Spirit to wage war on Satan.

And after the formal temptations of Jesus, we read on in Luke 4:14-15

¹⁴ *And Jesus returned in the **power of the Spirit** to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all*

the surrounding country. ¹⁵ And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

And then in verse 18 and 19 we read the so-called Nazareth Manifesto. Where Jesus proclaims what he is here to do, and notice that it is all driven, empowered or led by the Holy Spirit.

Luke 4:18-19

*¹⁸ “The **Spirit of the Lord is upon me**,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.*

*He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,*

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

Whether it be preaching, driving out demons, healing the sick, giving up his life or rising from the dead, all was done through the Spirit, as the one anointed by the Spirit.

Application

Illustration of hostage situation

Jesus Christ too is faced with a hostage situation behind enemy lines.

Each of us were or are captive to sin. Trapped in a cell guarded by the desires of the flesh. Jesus is fully equipped, fully furnished, to rescue us.

But the question is, are you willing to follow him? Are you willing to leave your comfortable cell, to cross enemy territory and endure the long march home?

It will have it's difficulties, but only if you follow him out, will you escape death and taste the fruit of freedom and peace.

Or have you fallen in love with your captor? Has sin seduced you and ensnared you? Are you drunk with the fleeting pleasures sin offers and blind to the prison you are in? Do you believe the lie that your captors want what is best for you? Do you believe that your desires are what is best for you?

Your captors have only one end goal in mind for you. To stay in the cell of sin means death. That is how the story ends if you stay captive to sin.

The captives of sin will be executed if they are not rescued first.

The offer of escape is there. Jesus is fully furnished to rescue you.

Will you follow him?

He is fully furnished for his work.

Jesus is the Son of God Incarnate, full of the Holy Spirit, and thus thoroughly furnished to rescue you. Fully furnished to reconcile sinners to a holy God.

No gaps or blind spots. No weakness or shortcomings.

You can trust his word

You can rely on his sacrifice

You can follow his lead.

Conclusion

He is thoroughly furnished to execute the office of mediator.

- He is Fully God,
- He is Fully man
- He is the Incarnate Son of God
- He is Born of a virgin,
- He is of the same essence as the Father.
- He is one Person with two natures.
- He is the anointed one
- He is full of the Holy Spirit.

Truly he is thoroughly furnished to execute the office of mediator.

Let us Pray