

Luke's Gospel: Son of Man, Seeker of Men.

Part 8: Jesus has Power over Darkness & Disease

Big Question: How can I stand strong in such a fallen world full of darkness & disease?

Luke 4:31-44 (NKJV): *Jesus Casts Out an Unclean Spirit*

³¹ Then He went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and was teaching them on the Sabbaths. ³² And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority.

³³ Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴ saying, "Let *us* alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"

³⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him in *their* midst, it came out of him and did not hurt him. ³⁶ Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, "What a word this *is!* For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out." ³⁷ And the report about Him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

Peter's Mother-in-Law Healed

³⁸ Now He arose from the synagogue and entered Simon's house. But Simon's wife's mother was sick with a high fever, and they made request of Him concerning her. ³⁹ So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them.

Many Healed After Sabbath Sunset

⁴⁰ When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹ And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of God!" And He, rebuking *them*, did not allow them to speak, for they knew that He was the Christ.

Jesus Preaches in Galilee

⁴² Now when it was day, He departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowd sought Him and came to Him, and tried to keep Him from leaving them; ⁴³ but He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent." ⁴⁴ And He was preaching in the synagogues of Galilee.

Let's jump into the message:

Jesus has power over darkness & disease. 3 Truths that can Transform your life:

1. Jesus has authority and power over the forces of _____ (v. 31-37, 41).
 - The people were amazed at Jesus teaching. Why?
 - There was something crazy that happened at church that day. What was it? A demon possessed man screamed out in the service with eerie voice: "Let us alone! What have we to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Did you come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"
 - What do we learn about demons here in this passage:
 - i. *The demons know who Jesus is.* How did the demons know who Jesus was? Jesus created them and cast them out of heaven when they rebelled against God.
 - ii. *The demons know that there's a future day of judgment* where they will be punished for their sin and rebellion.
 - iii. *Demons do occasionally possess unsaved people.*
 - Notice how Jesus responds to this crazy distraction in the synagogue:
 - i. He rebuked the demons.

Scripture Insight: [4:35](#), [36](#) **rebuked:** This term in Aramaic was a technical term for calling evil into submission. Jesus' authority over evil forces is clear. He possessed the **authority and power** to grant salvation, as well as to confront all opponents to it.¹

- ii. He didn't allow the demons to speak truth—because they were unreliable witnesses and Jesus came to reach people, not fallen angels.
 - iii. He cast the demons out of the person.
 - iv. He protected the person from getting hurt by the demons.
- What was the people's response after witnessing this exorcism?

Insight: *There's a difference between having power and authority.* Someone who has authority but no power, has a position or a title, but cannot do anything about the situation. On the other hand, someone who has power, but no authority has the ability but not the opportunity to accomplish what needs to be done. **Jesus has BOTH the power and the authority! He can get it done (POWER) and has the right to do it (AUTHORITY).**

2. Jesus has authority and power over the _____ and _____ of _____ (v. 38-40).

¹ Quote from Thomas Nelson NKJV Study Bible.

- Right after Jesus left the place of worship, He came to a place of rest—Simon's home—except this was not a place of rest because Peter's Mother-in-law was sick with the fever.

Scripture Insight: [4:38](#) *synagogue*. See notes on [Mt 4:13](#); [Mk 1:21](#). *home of Simon*. See model. *Simon's mother-in-law*. Peter was married (see [1Co 9:5](#) and note). *high fever*. All three Synoptics tell of this miracle ([Mt 8:14-15](#); [Mk 1:29-31](#)), but only Luke, the doctor, uses the more specific phrase "high fever."²

- What did Jesus do with the fever? He rebuked the fever and the fever left her. Jesus has power not only over darkness, but also over disease.

→If you feed your fear, your faith will starve. If you feed your faith, your fear will starve. Don't feed your fear...but feed your faith and watch your fears diminish!

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV); For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

- Notice the response of Peter's Mother-in-Law: She immediately arose and served them.

3. **Jesus didn't let _____ deter Him from His _____**
(v. 42-44).

- Why did Jesus go to a deserted place? Jesus often sought silence and solitude to spend time with His Heavenly Father.
- How many of you are busy and have crazy schedules?

2 Tips from the Life of Jesus about having time with God:

- 1) S_____ -After busy times of life and ministry, you need to get away to recharge and connect with God.
- 2) S_____ -Take time out of your schedule to connect with God. For Jesus, mornings worked well.

Mark 1:35 (NIV); Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. *a parallel to today's passage.

Luke 6:12-13a; Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.¹³ And when it was day, He called His disciples to *Himself*;

- Jesus kept His mind on God's will and mission and didn't get sidetracked by the will of people.

² Quote from NIV Cultural Background Study Bible.

- Jesus preached about the Kingdom of God. What is God's Kingdom? God's Kingdom is the rule and the reign of God over all the universe and in the affairs of God's people.

Scripture Insight: [4:43](#) The **kingdom** is referred to 30 times in Luke and six times in Acts. Jesus announced the rule of God through His person, in dealing with sin ([24:47](#)), in distributing the Spirit as He mediates blessing from God's side ([24:49](#)), and in reigning with His followers according to the OT promise (see [Ps. 2:7-12](#); [Acts 3:18-22](#)).³

Making It Personal:

- ✓ I will not let darkness dwell in my life since Jesus has authority and power over all darkness.
- ✓ I will not let fear cripple me from following Jesus since Jesus has authority and power over all the causes and effects of sickness.
- ✓ I will not be deterred from God's call on my life since Jesus has a calling and a plan for my life. My life is overflowing with purpose and destiny; therefore, I will not let the enemy distract, discourage, or deter me from God's plan for my life.

Take Home Truth: Jesus has authority and power over ALL darkness & disease; therefore, I will not fear what may come my way.

Action Step: Feed your faith and starve your fears. Here are some practical helps:

- Read—Read one chapter a day from God's Word. Where? Luke is a good starting place!
- Watch—Check out RightNowMedia--
 - The Grave Robber by Mark Batterson.
 - Got kids/grandkids? Check out Easter Week - Jelly Telly Devotional

Preview for next Sunday: "Followers are Fishers" from Luke 5:1-11.

Your Notes:

³ Quote from Thomas Nelson NKJV Study Bible.