

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

January 16, 2019

The Gospel of Luke

Ministry in Galilee

Topics – Luke 4; healing; casting out devils

Text – Luke 4:31 - 44

Introduction

Luke's gospel is now focusing on Jesus' ministry in Galilee, with His headquarters in Capernaum. (See Map)

"And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up." (Matthew 4:13-16)

It is interesting that Jesus does not set up His headquarters in Nazareth, but you will notice that the people in Nazareth rejected Him.

Later on, the people of Capernaum will be rebuked for their faithlessness as well:

"And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted to heaven, shalt be thrust down to hell." (Luke 10:15)

The remainder of chapter four deals with various healings that Jesus performed. Sick people were healed, crippled people were helped, and devils were hurled out of the possessed people wherever Jesus travelled. The people thronged Him, and were unwilling for Him to leave them.

There is one event that takes place within this time frame that is not recorded by Luke: the calling of four of the disciples into the ministry. (Matthew 4:12 – 25; Mark 1:16 – 20) When we get to chapter five, we will learn of another event in Capernaum, which further convinces Peter to give his life to the Lord. (Luke 5:1 – 11)

I **Jesus Casts Out Devils in Capernaum (4:31 – 37)**

Verse 30 is where we left the Lord in the last lesson. The members of the synagogue in Nazareth were attempting to throw Jesus off of the cliff, but slipped through their fingers. Jesus would not be taken and put to death before the time of His own choosing.

Though the bulk of the remainder of this chapter is about Jesus healing, we first see in verses 31 – 32 that Jesus was preaching powerfully in Capernaum on the Sabbath days. Noticed that He preached doctrine, and that His word was powerful.

Churches need to preach sound Bible doctrine.

"Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts." (Isaiah 28:9)

"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." (Acts 2:42)

*"Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. ... Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."
(1 Timothy 4:13, 16)*

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;" (2 Timothy 4:2-3)

"Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers." (Titus 1:9)

"But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:" (Titus 2:1)

Sound doctrine comes from rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

God's word is powerful.

Churches do not need gimmicks or entertainment. They need to faithfully teach and preach the powerful Word of God.

*"Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?"
(Jeremiah 23:29)*

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

God's Spirit is powerful:

*"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."
(Acts 1:8)*

In verses 33 – 37, we have the first recorded miracle in Luke's gospel. This is not Jesus' first miracle, which was Jesus was at the wedding in Cana, and turned the water into wine. (John 2:1 – 12) Here in Capernaum, Jesus casts out a devil in the synagogue. The response of the devil(s) is similar to what was said to the Lord when the demoniac of Gadara was relieved of his devils.

"And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?" (Matthew 8:29)

"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." (James 2:19)

About devil possession.

There is only one Devil (or Satan), but there are many devils, which are fallen angels.

The Devil and devils have their own anti-God agenda:

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6:11-12)

The Devil promotes false doctrine:

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;" (1 Timothy 4:1-2)

The Devil (or a devil) cannot force himself into someone's life. People slowly yield control of their lives to a devil through a variety of things that are under Satan's control: alcohol and drugs; the occult and false religion; music and entertainment that subtly promotes Satan's kingdom.

The Devil (or a devil) cannot possess a Christian, because the Holy Spirit indwells the Christian. However, the devil can oppress the Christian.

When a person is devil-possessed, they are out of their minds:

"Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water." (Matthew 17:15)

When a person is devil-possessed, the devil often speaks for the person as was the case in this text.

When a person is devil-possessed, they are often violent:

"(For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.)" (Luke 8:29)

Devil-possessed people can be in a church. Here, there was one in the synagogue.

You will notice in our text that the devil speaks, but the man does not. In other words, the man does not ask the Lord to heal him, but he does. Jesus is God, and is omniscient, knew that the man wanted relief. People often get themselves into something that is more than they asked for, and they need Jesus to get them out.

The casting out of this devil, caused Jesus reputation to spread throughout Galilee.

II Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-In-Law in a House (4:38 – 39)

Jesus healed a man with a severe spiritual problem, and now heals a woman with a physical problem. Matthew (Matthew 8:14 – 15) and Mark (Mark 1:30 – 31) both record this event, but only the physician Luke tells us her fever is high. God's desire is not just for spiritual well-being, but also for

physical well-being. Sin has caused a great deal of physical problems in the world. For the saved, the day is coming when all those sicknesses and physical problems will be gone.

Notice that she is completely healed immediately, enough so to minister to Jesus and the other disciples. (See Luke 17:11 – 19 – “where are the nine?”)

This is a great illustration. When Jesus heals you, either spiritually or physically, it ought to be your desire to serve Him.

By the way – this text proves that Peter was married, contrary to what Catholicism teaches. (1 Corinthians 9:5)

III Jesus Serves the People of Capernaum through the Sunset (4:40 – 41)

Notice here that Jesus was working into the night, not leaving until every one of them were touched by Him. The ministry is not a 9 – 5 job. There may be times when there isn’t much going on, but there are often times when the ministry causes us to work through the night.

Notice also that the devils are very aware of who Jesus is. They identify Him clearly as “the Christ, the Son of God.”

IV Jesus Continues Serving in Other Cities in Galilee (4:42 – 44)

The Sunset would be the time when Jesus would be free to travel. Remember, on the Sabbath you could not travel great distances.

Jesus was done ministering to people, but the people were thronging him. The people were actually keeping Jesus from ministering to other people. Ministers need to be freed up so they can do what God has called them to do. Jesus was not there to preach and heal in Capernaum exclusively. He needed to proclaim the gospel and work all throughout Galilee.

Notice in v. 43 – “kingdom of God” – the phrase is used 31 times in Luke. This is the first reference.

From my notes on Matthew 3:1 - 2, “Survey and Synopsis of the Gospels”:

Kingdom of Heaven

1 – General rule of God over the affairs of man on earth from creation through the Millennium.

2 – Specific rule of Christ over the earth during the Millennium.

3 – As distinguished from the “Kingdom of God” which is a broader phrase, which would include God’s rule over everything in the universe and specifically references often the New Birth. The Kingdom of Heaven is included in the Kingdom of God.



JESUS' MINISTRY IN GALILEE

- City
- ⊙ Jesus' Galilean headquarters
- ← Jesus preaches in synagogue in Nazareth (*Luke 4:16ff*)
- ← Jesus heals a young man in Lower Galilee (*Luke 7:11ff*)
- ← Jesus returns from Jerusalem and heals a child from Cana (*John 4:46ff*)
- Jesus preaches around Caesarea-Philippi (*Matthew 16:13ff*)
- Jesus crosses Sea of Galilee to the country of the Gergesenes (*Luke 8:26ff*)
- Jesus journeys into the regions of Tyre and Sidon (*Matthew 15:21ff*)
- Jesus preaches in the region of the Decapolis (*Mark 7:31ff*)
- Jesus performs wonders near Bethsaida (*Matthew 14:13ff*)