

Luke 4:31-44  
Example of Jesus' ministry in Galilee

**Jesus' teaching ministry in Capernaum's synagogue—4:31-32**

- 1) Jesus' ongoing activity—4:31 <sup>31</sup> *And He went down to Capernaum (after His rejection in Nazareth), a city of Galilee, and was teaching [impf. + pres. act. ptc.] them on the Sabbaths.*
- 2) The people's response—4:32 <sup>32</sup> *And they were amazed [impf.] at His teaching,*
  - a) Why? *because His word was in authority.*
    - i) Jesus apparently did not follow the rabbis' custom of quoting a list of authorities to make one's point.
    - b) Cf. Luke 2:48

**Jesus' authoritative ministry in and near Capernaum's synagogue—4:33-41**

- This is the first healing miracle in Luke's book, the 1<sup>st</sup> of 6 recorded in Luke 4-5.
- 1) Jesus' holy authority over SPIRITUAL suffering; a demonized man—4:33-37
    - a) The **public** setting—4:33-34 <sup>33</sup> *Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon, and he shouted with a loud voice, <sup>34</sup> saying, "Aha! What have we to do with You, Jesus the Nazarene? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"* (cf. Psalm 16:10)
      - i) Demons always attempt to corrupt God's good purposes in the world. They flinch when they come in contact with the Living God!
      - ii) NET Bible note: The confession of Jesus as *the Holy One* here is significant, coming from an unclean spirit. Jesus, as the Holy One of God, who bears God's Spirit and is the expression of holiness, comes to deal with uncleanness and unholiness.
    - b) Jesus' activity—4:35
      - i) Jesus exercises authority—<sup>35</sup> *But Jesus reprimanded him, saying, "Be muzzled, and come out of him!"*
        - (1) Jesus does not need an unclean spirit's "endorsement."
        - (2) Jesus has total authority over this demon, without resorting to invoking God's name or using rituals and incantations. He gives two authoritative commands for the rebellious demon to obey.
      - ii) The demon obeys Jesus—*And when the demon had thrown him into their midst, he departed from him, and did not harm him.*
        - (1) Jesus had total authority to prevent the demon from harming the man. Remember Luke 4:18-19.
    - c) The people's response—4:36-37 <sup>36</sup> *And amazement came upon them all, and they were talking to one another, saying, "What is this word? For in authority and power He is commanding the unclean spirits, and they come out!"* <sup>37</sup> *And news concerning Him went out into every place in the vicinity* (of Galilee).
      - i) They marvel at the effectiveness of Jesus' authoritative ministry.
  - 2) Jesus' authority over PHYSICAL suffering; Simon Peter's mother-in-law—4:38-39

- a) The **semiprivate** setting—4:38 <sup>38</sup> *And having arisen out of the synagogue, He entered into Simon's house. But Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Him about her.*
    - i) About ½ block south of the synagogue.
  - b) Jesus' activity—4:39
    - i) Jesus exercises authority—<sup>39</sup> *And standing over her (on the bed), He reprimanded the fever and it left her.*
    - ii) The response—*And she arose immediately and began serving them.*
      - (1) How contrary to our physical strength after a high fever has broken.
- 3) In the evening, Jesus' authority over physical and spiritual suffering—4:40-41
- A return to a **public** setting
- a) Physical suffering—4:40a <sup>40</sup> *Now as the sun was setting (ending of the Sabbath but before it was totally dark; these people were impatient), all those who had any (relatives and friends) who were sick with various diseases brought them to Him;*
    - i) Jesus' authoritative activity—4:40b *and have placed His hands on each one of them (personally), He healed them.*
  - b) Spiritual suffering—4:41a <sup>41</sup> *Now demons were coming out from many, shouting, and saying, "You (emphatic) are the Christ, the Son of God!"*
    - i) Jesus' authoritative activity—4:41b *And having reprimanded them, He did not permit them to speak, because they knew (had known all along) that He was the Christ.*
    - ii) Jesus does not need an unclean spirit's "endorsement."
    - iii) NET Bible note: the time for such disclosure was not yet at hand, and such a revelation would have certainly been misunderstood by the people. In all likelihood, if the people had understood him early on to be the Son of God, or Messiah, they would have reduced his mission to one of political deliverance from Roman oppression (cf. John 6:15). Jesus wanted to avoid, as much as possible, any premature misunderstanding about who he was and what he was doing. However, at the end of his ministry, he did not deny such a title when the high priest asked him (cf. 22:66–71).

### **Jesus keeps His healing ministry in focus despite intense peer pressure—4:42-44**

- 1) The setting—4:42 <sup>42</sup> *Now when it became day (sunrise), having departed, He proceeded into a secluded place (to pray, cf. Mark 1:35); yet the crowds were seeking Him, and were coming to Him, and tried to keep Him from departing from them.*
  - a) Their enthusiasm for Jesus does not spring from faith but selfishness.
- 2) Jesus' activity—4:43-44
  - a) He corrects their wrong priorities—<sup>43</sup> *But He said to them, "It is necessary for Me (cf. 2:49) to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God (God the Father's rule through the Messiah; mentioned for the first time in Luke) to the other cities also, because for this reason I was sent (by God the Father)."*
  - b) He continues the right priority—4:44 <sup>44</sup> *And he continued to preach in the synagogues of Galilee.*

- i) He travels with His disciples (note their **second** call to follow Jesus in Mark 1:16-20 just before Luke 4:31; the **first** was in John 1:35-51; the **third** will be in Luke 5:1-11)
- 3) Garland: “Not only is Jesus able to refuse the enticements of Satan; he is also shown to be able to refuse the cocktail of privilege, fame, and applause from others. He will not allow His ministry to become a variety show that plays to the audience. He resists the pressures from the crowds, and later from His own disciples, to do their bidding and to bring more fame to Himself. He is able to resist them because through prayer He is centered on God’s calling and purpose for His life.” (p 221)

**Take-home truth:** Jesus has authority to overcome evil spirits and physical illness. But His authority also extends to the hearts and lives of people made in God’s image. Have you submitted to this authority?