

# 'Luke' - Extra Teaching Points #6

Luke 4:31-5:11 (NASB95)

## Luke 4:31-37

*"And He came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and He was teaching them on the Sabbath; <sup>32</sup> and they were amazed at His teaching, for His message was with authority. <sup>33</sup> In the synagogue there was a man possessed by the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, <sup>34</sup> "Let us alone! What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are — the Holy One of God!" <sup>35</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in the midst of the people, he came out of him without doing him any harm. <sup>36</sup> And amazement came upon them all, and they began talking with one another saying, "What is this message? For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits and they come out." <sup>37</sup> And the report about Him was spreading into every locality in the surrounding district."*

This is the first of many exorcisms in Jesus' ministry.

- **These spiritual healings, (as well as the healings of physical illnesses), demonstrated that the Dominion of Darkness was no longer unopposed.**
  - The Dominion of darkness was powerful; but now a kingdom with more power and authority had come.

**It is interesting that Luke doesn't seem to feel he needs to explain the phenomenon of demon possession.**

- By contrast, Luke took the time to explain where Capernaum was located ([Luke 4:31](#)), a detail that would not have been necessary if his letter had been written to someone familiar with the area.
- The other Bible writers seem to assume everyone knows what demon possession is as well.
  - Apparently, Jews, gentiles, Romans—everyone at that time—knew about demon possession and what it was; so Bible writers talked about it in a very 'matter-of-fact' way.

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## Extra Info on Demon Possession:

Our society is probably one of the only cultures, and one of the only times in history, where people don't really know what demon possession is.

- We usually think of ourselves as smarter than the ancients; but actually, at least in this respect, we are way more ignorant than them.
- Even theologians today often claim that demonic accounts in the Bible were something else—a disease or mental illness—and people in the 1<sup>st</sup> century called it demon possession only because of their superstitions and lack of education.
  - Today we would more likely look for a medical cure for demonic activity, and try to manage the demon through medications rather than delivering people from them.
- Our society is the first to be ignorant of demonic activity; which means we are going backward, not forward!

Many other cultures and societies today know way more about demonic activity than we do here in the US.

- India, China, Africa, South America, tribal peoples almost anywhere... They've got witch doctors that try to cure it.
  - They know about demon possession in the same matter-of-fact way Luke writes about it.
- In those cultures, one of the main reasons the Gospel takes hold and spreads is because the Gospel is the only effective way they've seen people successfully delivered from demons.

Jesus and His true disciples are the only ones who ever really scared the demons ([Luke 4:34](#); [Luke 10:17](#)).

- Just throwing out Jesus' name didn't impress demons ([Acts 19:14-16](#)); what scared them was Jesus' power and authority which accompanied His disciples.

**In our society Satan has done a good job of fooling disciples into rationalizing away the realities of demonic activity, or causing them to be superstitious and fear demons.**

- If we have the Spirit of Christ ([Romans 8:9-11](#)), then the demons should be afraid of us... not us afraid of them!

It is worth noting that one of the regular members of the synagogue had an unclean spirit in him.

- Apparently this man didn't always act crazy, but certain things would set him off.
  - Some of the demon-possessed people in the Bible always acted crazy ([Mark 5:2-5](#)), but apparently not all demon-possessed people acted crazy all the time.

**Demon possession in the Bible seems to be a matter a degrees—not everyone with a demon acts the same way; and not everyone with a demon acts under the influence of the demon all the time.**

- [Matt 9:32-33](#) A demon made the man mute.
- [Matt 17:14-18](#) A demon made the boy have seizures.
- [John 10:21](#) Apparently demons could not give sight to the blind.
- [1Cor 10:20](#) Demons were the dynamic behind idol worship... probably because they can lie to people, and fool them into believing and doing wrong things ([1Tim 4:1](#)).

**Q: How many people in our assemblies and churches have an unclean spirit in them that makes them act-out in response to Jesus' teaching?**

Some of our misunderstanding of demons and how they work could come from a poor translation of the word *daimonizomai*.

- This word gets translated "demon possessed", but the word "possessed" may be too strong for the original language.
  - "*Daimonizomai*" literally means, "to be exercised by a demon or vexed with a demon or devil(s)."
- Maybe a better word for demon possession would be "**demonized.**"

The word "devil" in Greek is "*diabolos*" which means, "*false accuser or slanderer.*"

- [John 8:44](#) Jesus tells us that Satan's nature is to lie.
- **This should give us some insight into how demons work, and how best to defeat them—tell the truth and stand in the truth!**

[Mark 1:21-28](#) is the parallel, but there is a slight difference. In [Mark 1:22](#) it says, "*as one having authority*", whereas in [Luke 4:32](#) it says, "*His message was with authority.*"

- **Lots of people speak "as one having authority" ... but do they really have authority?**
  - In Mark's account it appears that the people were **astonished** (NKJV) that Jesus talked like He had authority... not even scribes did that! ([Mark 1:22](#))
  - But when Jesus made the demon submit ([Mark 1:27](#)), the people were **amazed** that He actually had the authority to speak the way He did.
    - These 2 words (*astonished* and *amazed*) are often both translated "*amazed*" but they are different Greek words (*ekplesso* and *thambeo*).

**[Luke 4:38-39](#)**

*"Then He got up and left the synagogue, and entered Simon's home. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Him to help her. <sup>39</sup> And standing over her, He rebuked the fever, and it left her; and she immediately got up and waited on them."*

This is Luke's first mention of Peter, but Luke will not really introduce us to Peter until the next chapter.

- [Mark 1:29](#) is the parallel verse, and says Jesus went to Simon's **and** Andrew's house.
  - Apparently Simon and Andrew lived together and Peter's mother-in-law lived there too.
- This event apparently occurs before Simon and Andrew are called away from their fishing.
  - Matthew and Mark introduce Simon and Andrew first when Jesus called them away from their fishing, then the synagogue, then the healing of Peter's mother-in-law.

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## Extra Info on the calling of Peter and Andrew:

[John 1:35-42](#) records the first time Peter and Andrew met Jesus... which was sometime before Luke's account of Jesus healing Peter's mother-in-law.

- Apparently, Peter and Andrew followed Jesus around for a day, then went back to fishing.
  - Likewise, after Luke's account of Jesus healing Peter's mother-in-law, Peter and Andrew again went back to fishing.
  - It wasn't until [Luke 5:4-11](#) that Jesus called Peter and Andrew and told them they would be fishers of men... that's when they left fishing to follow Jesus.
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[Vs. 39](#) Jesus "rebuked" the fever, and it left.

**Q: Jesus "rebuked" demons ([Matt. 17:18](#); [Mark 1:25](#); [Mark 9:25](#)); and, on at least one occasion, He "rebuked" the wind and waves ([Mark 4:39](#); [Matt. 8:26](#)). Is there any significance to Luke's account that Jesus rebuked the fever, rather than saying Jesus healed her of her fever?**

- This fever could have been brought on by Satan or one his demons.
  - Perhaps Satan wanted to discourage Peter from following Jesus?
- The same Greek word, "**epitimaō**", is used in each of these accounts. It means, "to censure, admonish, or forbid."
- When Jesus rebuked the waves and wind ([Mark 4:39](#) and [Matt 8:26](#)), He was crossing the lake on His way to meet Legion... who had a legion of demons in him.
  - It is possible that Satan sent the winds and waves to prevent Jesus from having the encounter with Legion.
  - Legion was no doubt a prize of Satan's... he doesn't usually get that much power over someone, and didn't want to lose his trophy.
- **Fevers, winds and waves are usually just part of nature—they don't have personality and wouldn't be affected by rebuking—unless somehow, in these instances, they were not just a part of nature but rather a tool of something that could be "rebuked"... like a demon.**
  - In [Job 1](#) God grants Satan permission to test Job. In [Job 1:18-19](#) a wind blew down a house and killed Job's children.
  - Apparently Satan can use natural forces when God permits him to do so; or maybe when God doesn't stop him from doing so.

## [Luke 4:40-41](#)

*"While the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and laying His hands on each one of them, He was healing them. <sup>41</sup> Demons also were coming out of many, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But rebuking them, He would not allow them to speak, because they knew Him to be the Christ."*

This is one of the rare times that Jesus healed EVERY sick person who came to Him.

- It isn't always God's will to heal every sick person.
- [Acts 3:1-8](#) records a man who had been lame since birth, who always came and sat at the temple gate. Jesus walked past this man several times, and never healed him; instead Jesus left the man there for Peter to heal later.

**Q: Why did people start coming to Jesus at sunset for Him to heal them?**

- Jews didn't start a new day at midnight like we do... they began at sunset.
- This all happened on a Sabbath, and the laws of the Sabbath would have been enforced until sunset.

**Q: Why didn't Jesus let the demons tell who He was?**

- Maybe Jesus didn't need demons to do His PR work.
  - Later on, Jesus was accused of being in league with demons ([Matt 12:24](#)). Perhaps He didn't want to be associated with demons any more than He had to be.
  - Demons would definitely like to promote false Christs too. Jesus didn't want liars to be the ones who witnessed about Him.
- Interestingly, Jesus didn't publicly claim to be the Christ either... He chose His own witnesses—His apostles—to go out and proclaim Him.
  - They were much more reputable witnesses than demons!

**Luke 4:42-44**

*“When day came, Jesus left and went to a secluded place; and the crowds were searching for Him, and came to Him and tried to keep Him from going away from them. <sup>43</sup> But He said to them, **“I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose.”** <sup>44</sup> So He kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.”*

**Q: Why was Jesus sent?**

- To proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God.

**Q: If proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom of God was the reason why Jesus was sent, how central should it be to His disciples?**

**Q: What is the difference between good news and good advice?**

- Good advice is about what you need to do... Good news is about what has already been done!
- Too many times, we try to make Christianity to be about good advice—how we can live better and be better.
  - **While we must live better and be better, we are able to live better and be better because of the good news of what has already been done!**

**Luke 5:1-11**

*“Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret; <sup>2</sup> and He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And He sat down and began teaching the people from the boat. <sup>4</sup> When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, **“Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.”** <sup>5</sup> Simon answered and said, “Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets.” <sup>6</sup> When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to break; <sup>7</sup> so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, “Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!” <sup>9</sup> For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; <sup>10</sup> and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, **“Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men.”** <sup>11</sup> When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.”*

Luke gives more detail about this than Matthew ([Matt 4:18-21](#)) and Mark ([Mark 1:16-20](#)).

- Matthew and Mark tell us that Jesus was walking along the shore and saw Peter and Andrew, called them, then walked a little further, saw James and John, and called them too.
- Luke says Jesus was teaching when He got into one of Peter's and Andrew's boats.
- **All three are, no doubt, correct. Jesus had probably seen them out fishing while He was teaching, and approached their boats when they came in.**

Peter questioned Jesus' instructions because, as a professional fisherman, Peter thought he knew better about fishing than Jesus did ([Luke 5:5](#)).

**Q: Why did Peter ask Jesus to go away from him?**

- When Peter saw how wrong he was to doubt Jesus, he asked Jesus to go away from him because he thought he was too sinful to be of use to Jesus ([Luke 5:8](#)).
  - It is important to note that Jesus didn't go away.
  - Instead Jesus tells Peter, "I've got work for you to do... your sinfulness is not going to be a problem ... I can still use you."

**Q: Why do you think Jesus told Peter, Andrew, James, and John that they would be "fishers of men from now on", instead of saying, "I'm going to make you missionaries, apostles, church leaders, or great preachers."? ([Luke 5:10](#))**

- Jesus was telling them He would teach them how to transfer what they already knew about, into useful tools in His Kingdom... not how to be something they couldn't imagine.
- It seems like God prepares people for service in His Kingdom even before they come to Him.
  - David was a shepherd, and God called Him to be a shepherd of Israel.
  - Peter was a fisherman, and Jesus called Him to fish for people.

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## Follow Up Assignment

Q: How central is preaching the Kingdom of God to your mission in life?

- If someone watched you for a week or two, what would they likely say your mission in life is?

Q: Is there a reason why you think God wouldn't want to use you to preach the gospel?

- How does understanding the gospel is "*good news*", not "*good advice*," make you feel about the mission to preach it?

Q: It seems like God prepares people for service in His Kingdom even before they come to Him. What Has God developed in you, that He may be calling you to use in His Kingdom?