

A Man with an Evil Spirit

Luke 4:33 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!”

First He went to the synagogue and there met a man with an unclean demon.

The adjective unclean is often used to describe evil spirits; it means that they themselves are impure and that they produce impurity in the lives of their victims.

The reality of demon possession is seen in this passage. First there was a cry of terror—“Let us alone!” Then the spirit showed clear knowledge that Jesus was the Holy One of God who would eventually destroy the hosts of Satan.

Luke 4:35 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.

Jesus issued a twofold command to the demon, “Be quiet, and come out of him!” The demon did so, after throwing the man to the ground but leaving him unharmed.

Luke 4:36 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.

The people were amazed! What was different about the words of Jesus that unclean spirits obeyed Him? What was that indefinable authority and power with which He spoke? No wonder the reports about Him spread throughout the surrounding region!

All the physical miracles of Jesus are pictures of similar miracles He performs in the spiritual realm. For instance, the following miracles in Luke convey these spiritual lessons:

Casting out unclean spirits (4:31–37)—deliverance from the filth and defilement of sin.

Healing Peter’s mother-in-law of fever (4:38, 39)—relief from the restlessness and debility caused by sin.

Healing of the leper (5:12–16)—restoration from the loathsomeness and hopelessness of sin (see also 17:11–19).

The paralyzed man (5:17–26)—freedom from the paralysis of sin and enablement to serve God.

The widow’s son raised to life (7:11–17)—sinners are dead in trespasses and sins, and need life (see also 8:49–56).

The stilling of the storm (8:22–25)—Christ can control the storms that rage in the lives of His disciples.

Legion, the demoniac (8:26–39)—sin produces violence and insanity and ostracizes men from civilized society. The Lord brings decency and sanity and fellowship with Himself.

The woman who touched the hem of His garment (8:43–48)—the impoverishment and depression brought on by sin.

Feeding of the 5,000 (9:10–17)—a sinful world starving for the bread of God. Christ satisfies the need through His disciples.

The demon-possessed son (9:37–43a)—the cruelty and violence of sin, and the healing power of Christ.

The woman with the spirit of infirmity (13:10–17)—sin deforms and cripples, but the touch of Jesus brings perfect restoration.

The man with dropsy (14:1–6)—sin produces discomfort, distress, and danger.

Blind beggar (18:35–43)—sin blinds men to eternal realities. The new birth results in opened eyes.

Jesus Heals Many People (Matthew 8.14-17; Mark 1.29-34)

Luke 4:38 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.

Next Jesus made a sick-call at Simon's house, where Simon's wife's mother was sick with a high fever. As soon as the Lord rebuked the fever, it left her.

The cure was not only immediate but complete, since she was able to get up and serve the household. Usually a great fever leaves a person weak and listless.

Luke 4:40 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.

As the Sabbath drew to a close, the people were freed from enforced inactivity; they brought a great number of invalids and demoniacs to Him. None came in vain. He healed every one of those who were diseased, and cast out the demons. Jesus healed every one of them.

Luke 4:41 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.

The expelled demons knew that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. But He would not accept the testimony of demons. They must be silenced. They knew that He was the Messiah, but God had other and better instruments to announce the fact.

Luke 4:42 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.

The next day, Jesus retired to a deserted place near Capernaum. The crowd sought till they found Him. They urged Him not to leave. But He reminded them that He had work to do in the other cities ... of Galilee.

So from synagogue to synagogue, He went preaching the good news about the kingdom of God. Jesus Himself was the King. He desired to reign over them. But first they must repent. He would not reign over a people who clung to their sins. This was the obstacle. They wanted to be saved from political problems but not from their sins. What can we learn from this?

Jesus Chooses His First Disciples

Luke 5:1 So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret,

This is the Sea of Galilee. Jesus referred to it as a "sea" but here Luke calls it a lake. It is six hundred eighty-five feet below sea level, about seven miles wide, and twelve miles long. In Christ's day, it was abundant with fish.

Luke 5:2 and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. :3 Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

From Peter's boat, Jesus taught the multitudes who stood on the shore.

Jesus had met Peter previously (see Jn 1:41–42) and he had followed Christ in an intermittent fashion for some time. After this experience, however (cf. Mt 4:18–19), they forsook all, and followed him (vs. 11).

Luke 5:4 When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."