

# THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

## *A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God*

### *Clashing Kingdoms*

Luke 4: 31-44

**Introduction:** From the sudden turn of events in Jesus' home town of Nazareth, Luke takes us to Capernaum where Jesus resided for some period of time—a sort of base of operations. From there He preached throughout the region of Galilee. From these events Luke selects several incidents where the ministry of Jesus confronted the ravages of sin and the kingdom of darkness.

#### **I. The Gospel Record: Three Significant Events and Their Impact Upon the People**

- A. The demoniac in the synagogue (vv. 31-37)  
—He has direct authority over evil spirits and the people are amazed
- B. Healing Simon's mother-in-law of a severe fever (vv.38-39)  
—He has direct authority over sickness and she rose and served Him
- C. The word of His power spreads throughout the region  
—He heals and delivers all who are brought to Him
- D. He retreats to the countryside and plans to preach elsewhere  
—The people want to keep Him for themselves

#### **II. Doctrinal Implications: What Can We Learn About Sickness & Demonization?**

- A. Demonology—the unclean spirit
  - 1. Theories of demons and Scriptural teaching
    - a. Outright denial of the supernatural & existence of demons
    - b. Accommodation of Jesus to the times
    - c. Functional denial of demonic activity by Western Christians
    - d. The teaching of Scripture in literal terms
  - 2. Demons know the truth and are well versed in eschatology!
  - 3. The demoniac is in the synagogue
    - a. God's people and demonic activity
    - b. Can Christians be demonized?
- B. Sickness—healing and rebuke
  - 1. All sickness ultimately has a sin origin as a result of the fall
  - 2. All sickness is ultimately an enemy and eventually leads to death which is the great enemy
  - 3. Confronting the kingdom of darkness and establishing the Kingdom of God includes Divine healing: both as the authentication of the Gospel and the "Children's Bread"

#### **III. Application and Appropriation—Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, & forever**

- A. The people of Capernaum wanted Jesus to stay with them and be their personal "genie" to cure all their ills. Often we are guilty of being more interested in the personal gifts of Jesus than we are in proclaiming the message of the Gospel.
- B. We must reclaim the authority vested in us by Jesus Himself and proclaim the good news with boldness, confronting the powers of darkness and exalting the name of Jesus.
- C. We must believe the truth of God's Word and if we do not see the power of God operating with us we must seek a revival of faith and restoration of the authority of the early church.

And He came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and He was teaching them on the Sabbath; and they were amazed at His teaching, for His message was with authority. In the synagogue there was a man possessed by the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, "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!" 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. 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." And the report about Him was spreading into every locality in the surrounding district.

#### **Memory Verse**

...they were amazed at His teaching, for His message was with authority. (Luk 4:32 NASB)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does “accommodation” mean and how does it relate to this passage?
2. Do demons cause all sickness? Explain your answer. Do they cause some sickness?
3. Explain why Jesus “rebuked” the fever in Simon’s mother-in-law.
4. Why do you think He laid hands on those who were sick to heal them?
5. Why do you think He did not lay hands on those who were demonized?
6. Why did the people of Capernaum want Jesus to stay. In what way were they just like the people of Nazareth?
7. Read the last few verses of Mark 16. Why do you think we do not see this so much in our country and in our day?
8. How has your thinking changed after study this passage?

### NOTES

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. And standing over her, He rebuked the fever, and it left her; and she immediately got up and waited on them.

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. 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.

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. But He said to them, “I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose.”

So He kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

**Luke 4: 31-44** (NASB)

Paul R. Martin  
Senior Pastor

Alliance Bible Church of McHenry, IL



THE ALLIANCE  
Living the Call together  
MATTHEW 28:18-20™