

LUKE I Jesus Casts Out a Demon Text: Luke 4:31–37

The Power of Jesus over the Super-Natural Realm

Introduction:

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1. Jesus has begun His ministry and is teaching, preaching and healing...
 2. Capernaum was a town in Northern Galilee on the Sea of Galilee [MAP]
 3. Not only do they see His teaching is with Power but His Healing is with Power
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I. THE POWER OF JESUS' TEACHING (4:31-32)

A. JESUS WAS TEACHING AT THE SYNAGOG IN CAPERNAUM...

1. The Synagog in Capernaum has been located by archeologists [IMAGES]
2. The white rock on top is from the 4th century...
the black basalt rock of the foundation is from the 1st century
3. This is believed to be the same location where Jesus taught in Synagogue

B. THEY WERE ASTONISHED AT HIS TEACHING (v.32)

1. **Jesus Taught with an Authority they Had Never Heard Before**
 - a) Not Like the Scribes and Pharisees... (Mk 1:22)
2. **Even His Enemies Could Not Deny the Power of Jesus Teaching**
 - a) When The Scribes & Lawyers Tried to Trap Jesus they Were Publicly Humiliated!
"And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore." (Matt 22:46)
 - b) When Temple guard soldiers went to arrest Jesus they came back empty handed!
"No one ever spoke like this man!" (Jn 7:46)
3. **Why Were they So Astonished at His Teaching?**
 - a) **Jesus Spoke Divine Truth...**
Scribes and Phrases used weak and evasive human reasoning
 - b) **Jesus taught on the Weighty matters of great significance...**
They often wasted their time on Trivial Matters of Little significance.
 - c) **Jesus spoke with the power of love and logic...**
But as the Talmud writings prove, they often rambled on and on...
 - d) **Jesus created curiosity with questions and illustrations...**
They taught in a way that focused on themselves and the praise of men
 - e) **Jesus spoke the truth in love, with a love and concern for individuals...**
But they loved the chief seats in the synagogues
and to be called rabbi in the marketplaces (Lk 20:47).
 - f) **Jesus spoke with Divine Authority, that honored the Father...**
But they spoke without authority in a way that honored Themselves,
the Rabbis, and their traditions of men.¹

¹ These contrasts adapted from William Hendriksen, LUKE commentary p.263, 1978 Baker publishers

C. APPLICATION: ONLY JESUS IS THE MASTER TEACHER

1. Today We tend to seek many popular teachers, or popular authors or motivational speakers... or Media Personalities...

- a) Think of the Millions of People who put their Faith in the Doctrines of Men...
- b) The MAN-MADE 'gospel' of Charles Darwin, Freud, or Nietzsche, or Gandhi, or Karl Marx, Mao Se-Tung, Richard Dawkins, Stephen Hawking.
- c) These are Human Teachers, drawing from broken wells...
rather than from the Source of Living Water! (**Jeremiah 2:13**)

2. Some try to Re-Brand Jesus... or Change Jesus to be more cultural...

- a) The Gospel of "Whatever's Happening Now!"
**It is not Jesus who needs to change to be more like us...
— it is us who need to change to be more like Jesus!**

3. Accept No Substitutes! Only Jesus is the Master Teacher

- a) He is the Author of Space and Time, the Author of Life and Eternity!
If Jesus Says it, You Can Believe it! — If Man Says it, it's Hard to Know What to Believe!
(John 6:63) ⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing.
The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life.

II. THE POWERLESS MAN OPPRESSED BY A DEMON (v.33-34)

A. A MAN POSSESSED BY A DEMON IN WORSHIP SERVICES

1. Why is a man possessed by a demon attending worship services?

And for How Long has he attended like this?

- a) One person said: "You can just see a couple in the back of Synagog..."
- b) "They're quietly trying to leave out the back..."
- c) "We're never coming back here again!"

2. WHAT ARE DEMONS?

- a) The NT is Clear that Demons Exist and Gives Some Details About the Nature of Demons, but practically nothing about their origin.
- b) The Greek word is translated: Evil spirit, unclean spirit and demons

3. THREE THEORIES about Demons:

- a) **FIRST: That they Don't Exist**—They can't be seen, can't be proven,
Demonic activity is simply an ancient superstition to explain mental illness such as schizophrenia (hearing voices, or split-personality)
**—Bible Makes a Clear Distinction Between
Physical Illness & Demon Possession (Mark 1:34)**
[Gk word And is Definite Article separating the two]
- b) **SECOND: They DO Exist**—But are the souls of deceased human beings, roaming earth and wanting to re-inhabit a human body.
—But No Where is This Found or Taught in the Bible— (Ecclesiastes 12:7)

- c) **THIRD: They DO Exist—but are angels** (fallen angels) spiritual beings created by God but who rebelled with Satan and cast out of heaven
—**This Seems to be the Most Likely Explanation** > (Rev. 12:7-9 > Jude 6)

Twice in this text we find Satan AND his angels mentioned

B. NOTICE THE KNOWLEDGE OF THIS DEMON

1. **The Demon Knows Who Jesus is by name (v.33-34)**
 - a) “Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth?”
 - b) The demons know who Jesus is
2. **The Demon Knows the Divine Authority of Jesus**
 - a) “Did You come to destroy us?” (v.34)
 - b) Jesus has the Divine Authority to Judge men, angels, demons and satan
3. **The Demon Knows of the Future Judgement**
 - a) “Did You come to destroy us?” (v.34)
 - b) The demons believe and tremble because they know of the Judgement Day of God
4. **The Demon Knows Jesus is the Holy One**
 - a) I know who You are—the Holy One of God!” (v.34)
 - b) Only God is Holy, therefore the Demon Knows this is the Son of God

C. APPLICATION: RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE IS NOT ENOUGH

1. **Obviously Demons Have Knowledge—**
 - a) Demons Know Jesus is the Son of God...
 - b) They even Confess Jesus is the Son of God...
 - c) They Know of God and of the Judgement Day!
2. **TODAY We Live in an Age that Believes Our Knowledge Will Save Us...**
 - a) Our Science Will Save Us... Our Technology will save us... our Progress...
 - b) But This is Not a New Belief System...— It is as old as the Tower of Babel—
 - c) The Babylonians, the Egyptians, the Greeks and now Western Society
3. **This Greek Philosophy crept into 1st century church—called: ‘gnosticism’**
 - a) Gnosis is the Greek word for Knowledge—
 - b) Gnostics Taught you must have “secret knowledge” to be saved...
4. **The Flaw in this False-Ideology is that by Knowledge you can save yourself**
 - a) But if Secret Knowledge is all that was needed to “save Yourself” then wouldn’t Demons be saved by their knowledge? But James wrote:
(James 2:19-20) “You believe that there is one God. You do well.
Even the demons believe—and tremble!
b) Paul wrote: “But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.” (1 Cor. 8:1–3)

**“It was pride that changed angels into demons;
it is humility that makes men as angels.” (Augustine)**

KNOWLEDGE is NOT Enough—We Need FAITH... (2 Peter 1:5–8)

**FAITH is MORE than Just an OPINION—It is a CONVICTION in God
to Trust and Obey Him Even if It Cost You Your Life!**

III. THE POWER OF JESUS TO SAVE

A. JESUS COMMANDED THE DEMON TO LEAVE (v.35–37)

1. Notice Jesus Commands the Evil Spirit to Leave and the Demon obeys
2. Jesus had Power Over the Forces of Darkness
3. Contrast This with Some Jewish Exorcists who tried to cast out a demon in Jesus name and it ended miserably. (Acts 19:13–17)

B. JESUS HAS POWER OVER ALL CREATION...

1. Over Visible and Invisible Creation

“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers.” (Col 1:16)

2. Over Physical and Spiritual Realms

“far above all principality and power and might and dominion” (Eph 1:21)

3. Over Natural and Super-Natural Realms

“Jesus upholds the universe by the word of his power.” (Heb 1:3 ESV)

4. Even over the Super-Natural Forces of Darkness (Luke 4:40–41)

C. APPLICATION: ONLY JESUS CAN SAVE

1. Only Jesus Has the Power to Set the Captives Free

- a) But OUR Salvation required much more than Jesus casting out a demon...
or healing the sick... or giving sight to the blind...
- b) It Required Jesus to go to the Cross to be Crucified and Killed for our sins

2. Only Jesus Could Be the Perfect Atoning Sacrifice for our sins!

CONCLUSION:

1. While Dying on the Cross Jesus Said ‘It is Finished’

1. Greek Word “Tetelestai” It Means Finished, Complete, Paid in Full
2. Jesus Paid the Cost of Our Debt that We Could Not Pay
3. And Those Who Are in Christ Are Now Free! (Romans 8:1-2 ESV)

When We’re Baptized Into Christ We are Born Again a New Creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)