

Jesus Heals a Man with an Unclean Demon

***Luk 4:31-32 Then He went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and was teaching them on the Sabbaths. And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority.***

From this verse through the rest of the chapter we have one day with the Lord Jesus. Many of us would have loved to have spent a day with Him when He was on earth. Luke makes this possible for us.

Both Matthew and Mark record the fact that the Lord Jesus moved His headquarters from His hometown of Nazareth to Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee. He did this because the people from His own town would not receive Him. There came a day when He told the people of Capernaum, "And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted to heaven, shalt be thrust down to hell" (Luk\_10:15). Because His headquarters were there, what an opportunity they had. Light creates responsibility.

As the Lord taught in the synagogue on the Sabbath, He did not speak as a scribe or a Pharisee but as one who had authority. – McGee

***Luk 4:33-37 Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice, 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!" 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. 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." And the report about Him went out into every place in the surrounding region.***

Notice: Many people want to deny the deity of Christ, but the demons never did.

We are living in a day when demonism has lifted its ugly head again, and Satan worship is a reality. Demons were working in the days of our Lord, and they are working now. Our Lord cast a demon out of an individual. Even considering the use of drugs, it is difficult to explain some of the actions and awful crimes being committed unless the perpetrator is under the power and control of Satan. – McGee

**How many of our addictions and afflictions do you believe today are actually rooted in the spiritual realm? If you believe many are, that might explain the abysmal recovery rates of addicts and the lack of healing.**

Jesus Heals Many

***Luk 4:38-39 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. So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them.***

After leaving the synagogue, it seems that the Lord went to Simon Peter's house, probably for the noonday meal. While He was in Peter's house, He healed "Simon's wife's mother," Peter's mother-in-law, who had a great fever. The severity of diseases was indicated by saying one had a small or a great fever. This evidently was a serious illness. Our Lord rebuked the fever, using Luke's medical terminology, "be muzzled." The fever was like a wild dog that had broken the leash. Our Lord also dealt with sin like that. Immediately she arose and

ministered unto them. When the Lord Jesus Christ healed someone, healing did not come gradually but took place immediately. It was an amazing thing.

I have heard about a meeting conducted by a "faith healer" not long ago. It was reported that a cripple was led up to the platform where he was declared healed then led away, still limping. Then someone came to the platform who said he had internal cancer, and the faith healer declared that he was immediately healed of cancer. It is amazing how people will accept that type of testimony. Why wasn't the crippled man healed immediately? If our Lord had done it, the cure would have been immediate. I can hear someone asking, "Don't you believe in divine healing?" My answer is, "What other kind of healing is there?" All healing is divine. This is what Dr. Luke is telling us. Doctors do not always recognize this fact.

A wonderful doctor who was a member of my church in Texas once said to me, "I send the bill, but God does the healing. I take out that part that is offending the body, but God will have to be the Healer." What a great testimony. God, and not an individual, does the healing. – McGee

***Luk 4:41-44 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. 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. 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; 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." And He was preaching in the synagogues of Galilee.***

His day had started in the morning, teaching in the synagogue. Now it is late in the evening. The Lord goes outside to the multitude that had gathered, and He moves from one to another, touching and healing them. Matthew in recording this incident quotes from the prophet Isaiah: "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses" (Mat\_8:17). The Lord healed in a wonderful way. "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted" (Isa\_53:4). The Lord bore the sicknesses and diseases of the people sympathetically, in spite of the fact that the nation Israel in that day esteemed Him stricken. That is the way we also esteem Him. You see, He did not heal these people on the basis of their faith as far as we know, but His great heart of sympathy caused Him to move in their behalf.

We are told to have such a heart of sympathy today. "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ" (Gal\_6:2). – McGee

**Did Jesus heal these people out of his heart of empathy or based on their faith? What does this say about the empathy we should have towards others?**

***Luk 5:1-3 So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. 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.***

The Lake of Gennesaret is the Sea of Galilee. The fishermen there had left their boats and were washing their nets. The Lord climbed into Simon Peter's boat and asked him to push the boat out a little from the land. What a pulpit! I believe this illustration is both figurative and suggestive. Every pulpit is a "fishing boat," a place to give out the Word of God and attempt to catch fish. He had told these men that He would make them fishers of men. This does not mean that you and I will catch fish every time we give out the Word—the disciples didn't—but it does mean that the one on board must not forget the supreme business of life which is to fish for the souls of men. - McGee

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

After the Lord had finished speaking to the people, He said, "Now we'll leave off fishing for men, and we're going to fish for fish." Matthew and Mark tell us that the first time the Lord called these men He was walking by the Sea of Galilee and saw Simon Peter and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—they were fishermen—and the Lord said to them, "... Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (cf. Mat\_4:19; Mar\_1:17). Now these men have returned to their occupation of fishing. The Lord evidently made three calls to His disciples. He met most of them in Jerusalem. John tells us about it in John chapter 1. When John the Baptist marked Him out, several of his disciples wanted to know where Jesus dwelt. Among those who followed John were Philip, Nathanael, Simon Peter, and Andrew. The Lord did not call these men to be disciples at this time; He just met them. Later on, the Lord passed by the Sea of Galilee, saw them fishing, and called them to follow Him. They left their nets and followed Him. Now they had returned to the fishing business. Later on, Dr. Luke will tell us that once again the Lord called them to go fishing for men and at that time made them apostles.

As our Lord had been speaking to the crowd from his boat, Simon Peter had been sitting in the boat listening. When He finished speaking, He told Simon, "Launch out into the deep, and let your net down. You quit fishing with Me; now I am going to fish with you." – McGee

**How's the fishing going without Jesus in your boat? So, have you, like Peter, quit fishing for men/women with Jesus?**

***Luk 5:5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."***

"Nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net," indicates that Simon Peter had put up an argument. These men were expert fishermen, and thought they knew all about fishing in the Sea of Galilee—and they did. Peter makes it very clear that they had fished all night without catching anything.

The story is told that when Wellington once gave a command to one of his generals, he answered that it was impossible to execute the command. Wellington told him, "You go ahead and do it, because I don't give impossible commands." When the Lord Jesus Christ gives a command, you do not need to argue with him and say, "We've tried it before and it cannot be done." He does not give impossible commands. – McGee

***Luk 5:6 And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.***

Fishing must be done according to His directions. There are many lessons for us here. Fishing is an art. You must go where the fish are; you must use the right kind of bait; you must be patient; but the important lesson He is

teaching us is that we must fish according to His instructions. If we are ever going to win men for Him, we must fish according to His instructions.

In this instance the net broke. Later on, in the Gospel of John, a net overloaded with fish does not break. The fisherman's net illustrates a truth. At this point there is no net that can hold the fish for the simple reason that He has not yet died and risen from the dead—that is the gospel. The “net” which will hold fish must be one that rests upon the death and resurrection of Christ—at this time there had been no death and resurrection. The net broke. After His death and resurrection, He told them how to fish and the net did not break (see Joh\_21:1-11). Here He tells them to go out and preach the gospel to the very ends of the earth.

***Luk 5:7-8 So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"***

Notice that this is a tremendous catch of fish!

Peter confesses his failure; he is not even a good fisherman of fish due to his lack of faith. When Simon said, “Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord,” he was saying, “Lord you called me to be a fisher of men and I failed. I went back to fishing for fish—I thought I knew that kind of fishing better, but I find that I don't! Depart from me. Let me alone. I am a sinful man. You should find someone upon whom you can depend.” The Lord, however, did not intend to get rid of Simon Peter. He was going to use him, and this applies to us also. All we have to do is recognize that we are not very good fishermen—recognize our failures and faithlessness. When we are willing to depend on Him, He will not put us out of the fishing business, and He will not throw us overboard. He will use us. This is an encouraging truth!

***Luk 5:9-11 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.***

Simon Peter did catch men. Remember how well he did on the Day of Pentecost—the Lord's answer to Peter is certainly significant. Three thousand souls came to Christ after his first sermon! Peter was fishing according to God's instructions.

There is another lesson here. Do you know there is another fisherman? Do you know that Satan also is a fisherman? Paul tells us that in 2Ti\_2:26, which says, “And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.” Satan has his hook out in the water too. God is fishing for your soul, and Satan also is fishing for your soul with a hook baited with the things of the world. You might say God's hook is a cross. The son of God died upon that cross for you. This is God's message for you. By the way, whose hook are you on today? You are either on God's hook or Satan's hook. Either the Devil has you or God has you. There is no third fisherman.

Notice: They all walked away from the great catch of fish and chose Jesus instead. **How about you? If asked, are you ready to drop everything and follow the Lord?**