

Luke 4:31-37

³¹ And He came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and He was teaching them on the Sabbath; ³² and they were amazed at His teaching, for His message was with authority. ³³ In the synagogue there was a man possessed by the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴ “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!” ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ 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.” ³⁷ And the report about Him was spreading into every locality in the surrounding district.

1. The Beginning of Christ’s Ministry
 - a. Jesus moves the center of his ministry to Capernaum in Galilee of the Gentiles.
 - b. Jesus continues his strategy of preaching to the Jews in the synagogues
 - c. Those who hear him teach marvel at the authority of his message.
 - i. The authority is not directly tied to Jesus, but instead to his message.
2. Jesus performs his first sign.
 - a. In the synagogue there is a man possessed with the spirit of an unclean demon.
 - i. This is a redundancy to stress a point.
 1. Unclean always equals evil in the Jewish mind.
 - b. Jesus does not seek out the demon, the demon seeks out Christ.
 - c. The demon’s statement.
 - i. He begs for mercy.
 - ii. He admits that he is the antithesis of Christ.
 - iii. He begs to know the reason that Christ has come.
 - iv. He proclaims Jesus’ true identity.
 - d. Jesus responds by rebuking the demon and silencing him.
 - i. Jesus never accepted the testimony of demons.
 - e. The man is immediately healed in a very visible and amazing way.
3. The response of the people to Jesus’ sign.
 - a. The people are awestruck at this event.
 - b. They attribute the work and power of Christ to his message, not to him.
 - c. Because of this miracle the report about Jesus spreads to every place in Galilee.

4. The relation of miracles and the Message of Jesus.
 - a. There are two responses to the miracles of Jesus/.
 - i. The wrong response:
 1. A desire and interest in Jesus because of his authority but no interest in the Message of Jesus.
 - a. **Matthew 16:1-4**
 - ii. The right response:
 1. Faith in the message of Christ is re-enforced by the miraculous power of Christ.
 - a. **Luke 4:31 and Luke 4:36**
5. The power of Jesus over demons.
 - a. Jesus is shown as having legitimate power of demons.
 - b. This would have been contrasted to the Jewish exorcists of the day.
 - i. Jewish exorcists relied upon magic and superstitious rituals to achieve their goals.
 - ii. They would resort to any source of power of demons.
 1. **Acts 19:13-16**
 - c. Jesus' power over demons did not originate from occult practices, charms or amulets.
 - i. The power of Jesus came from his message.
 - d. Ultimately the main point of this passage is not about demon possession, it is about the authority of the message of Christ.
6. The Message of Christ.
 - a. The word translated message is the greek word "Logos"
 - i. **John 1:1**
 - b. The word translated authority is the Greek word "exousia".
 - i. This word means delegated influence.
 - c. The Ultimate Source of Jesus' authority his God the Father.
 - i. God the Father delegates this influence/authority to Jesus because of his Logos.
 - d. What is the Logos of Christ?
 - i. It is the expression of God the Creator in creation.
 1. **John 1:2**
 - ii. It is the power and authority of God.
 1. **1 Corinthians 1:18** **Isaiah 55:10-11** **Hebrews 4:12**
 - iii. It is Christ himself.
 1. Christ is the Message, the Gospel, the living and active Word of God, the perfect representation of the Father.
 2. Christ has authority and power because he is the embodiment of the Word, Will and Expression of God the Father.
7. Our Application.
 - a. Are we amazed at the Word of God?
 - i. **Psalm 119:97-104**
 - b. Do we really believe in the power, authority and sufficiency of the Word of God?
 - i. **2 Timothy 3:12** **Matthew 4:4**
 - c. Do we trust the power of the Word to deliver us from darkness?
 - i. **Galatians 3:5**