

Showing the Authority of Jesus as He begins His Ministry

a chiasmic or focused outline of Luke 4:14-44

- A Jesus teaches in the synagogue, gloried by all:** 4:14 "Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. 15 And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all."
- B Jesus sent to heal the sick:** 4:16 "So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. 17 And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." 20 Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.""
- C People are amazed:** 4:22 "So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?""
- D "brood of vipers" rebuked:** 4:23 "He said to them, "You will surely say this proverb to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in Your country.' " 24 Then He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country. 25 But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land; 26 but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, in the region of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." 28 So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, 29 and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. 30 Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way."
- E Word of Jesus has authority!** 4:31 "Then He went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and was teaching them on the Sabbaths. 32 And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority."
- D Demons rebuked:** 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!" 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."
- C People are amazed:** 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."
- B Jesus heals the sick:** 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. 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. 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."
- A Jesus teaches in the synagogues, sought by all:** 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.

Scripture Reading:

Luke 4:31 "Then [Jesus] went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and was teaching them on the Sabbaths. 32 And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority. 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!" 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. 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.

Ephesians 6: "10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-- 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

“Demons in the New Testament”

As we finish the 4th Chapter of Luke’s Gospel, we will return to the account in the Synagogue where we encounter the demon possessed man to consider demonic activity in the New Testament and the impact it may have on our lives today.

Next week we will review what we learned in Luke’s prologue about the impact that the coming of Jesus has had as our nation celebrates its founding with the 4th of July and then, Lord-willing move on to chapter 5 where we meet Peter the Fisherman who is to become the fisher of men!

We have spent many weeks in the later part of Luke’s fourth chapter using a focused or chiasmic outline that shows how Luke is focused on demonstrating the authority of Jesus.

I have reprinted this outline again in this morning’s order of worship and you can see at the center the key verses 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.”

We see the importance of this structure with the amazement and rebukes on either side of the center: On the one side the leaders of the synagogue, the brood of vipers, as John called them, are rebuked for their unbelief and on the other we have the demon rebuked in this morning’s reading.

Time would fail me this morning if I tried to survey all the demonic activity that we encounter in the Scriptures, but understanding what Luke has given us in these early chapters will help us understand what is going on, especially in the Gospels and how it impacts us today.

So with that in mind, let me begin with our text from Luke: “33 Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon.”

- **The first thing that we should note is where this takes place: In the synagogue! The shepherds had failed to guard the flock.**

“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!"

- **Clearly, it is the presence of Jesus that brings the sudden reaction: One could ponder what these demons were doing before!**

- **A reaction that should not surprise us when we take Jesus to the world... and even some so-called churches!**
- **Paul instructed the Saints at Corinth: “15 For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life.”**
- **The demon clearly says, “I know who You are--the Holy One of God!” We see this today in liberal churches where the church calendar is followed with all the pomp and circumstances [like having the right colors!] and even the seasonal readings from the Scriptures – BUT they reject Jesus**
- **We could also discuss all the atheists who are writing books now to attack Christians – who certainly fit Pastor Doug Wilson’s principles of atheism:**
 - **God does not exist**
 - **And I hate Him!**
- **How people relate to Jesus is NOT simply one of knowledge, but requires that they have been regenerated by the gift of faith.**

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.”

- **Just as Jesus used the Word of God to rebuke Satan in the wilderness, He now speaks and the demon obeys, clearly demonstrating the authority of Jesus.**
- **Should also note that this was not a ‘willing’ obedience but rather a very UNWILLING obedience!**
- **Another reminder to parents and ALL of us here at Church of the King of just how important the instruction and discipline of our children is for the Kingdom. Teaching them, and being the example of the choice given in Psalm 32:**

“8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. 9 Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you.”

- **As Theron said a few weeks ago, you can choose to be God's mouthpiece or you can choose to be God's mule!**

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."

Here again we need to see the structure of what Luke is writing to properly understand how these people have reacted.

Note the parallel "C" in the outline where the people are also "amazed"

In just a few short minutes these "amazed" people are going to be ready to cast Jesus off a cliff just as Satan wanted Him cast from the pinnacle of the Temple.

- **The amazement at seeing the demon rebuked was not going to bring repentance & salvation – The amazement of watching a circus act...**
- **They were like Herod wanting to see Jesus do some tricks or people who come to church to be entertained!**

So what does all of this mean for us outside of being a reminder of the importance of raising faithful covenant children?

The Bible is a story that has God and His gracious actions toward Man and His creation at its center. It is the grand story of our salvation through the death, burial and resurrection of God's Son Jesus.

As part of this story there is a great battle between God and Satan, but we know a whole lot more about God's victorious Son and his glorious Bride than we do about the enemy camp.

We do have in God's revelation enough information to keep us on our guard:

- ✓ **Satan in the garden**
- ✓ **Satan attacking Job**
- ✓ **Satan tormenting King Saul**
- ✓ **Satan tempting Jesus**
- ✓ **Massive demonic activity in the Gospels and Books of Acts**

And most importantly, Paul's admonition to the Saints at Ephesus that we read this morning

Ephesians 6: "10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

- **Satan is bound and no longer able to deceive the nations, but until he is cast into the lake of fire at the final judgment, we are warned about his power.**
- **We pray to be delivered from the 'evil one' in the Lord's Prayer**

Paul goes on to explain the nature of the is battle:

12 "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Do we take this teaching seriously in our modern secular America?

The Gospel has driven the demons from our land just as God displaced the wicked from the promised land: BUT...

We are in danger of doing just what God's people did back then:

Deuteronomy 8:10-20

10 "When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you. 11 "Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, 12 lest--when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; 13 and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; 14 when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; 15 who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock; 16 who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end-- 17 then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.'

18 And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. 19 Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the Lord your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish. 20 As the nations which the Lord destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the Lord your God.”

- **We are to always be on our guard and we must fight with GOD’S armor as Paul outlines:**

13 “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.”

- **There may have been a dramatic increase in demonic activity in the Gospels and Acts which we don’t even see in the remotest pagan areas today, BUT Paul is reminding us that the wicked one can still throw darts if we let our guard down.... Just ask my wife!**
- **We must also remember the close connection that we see with the demons and the synagogues ... We may not see the violent or ugly outbursts unless the demons are confronted**
- **Would recommend The Screwtape Letters to those who have not read them.**

17 “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--

19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

Our hymn of response will be that great hymn of the reformation where Martin Luther reminds that we must always be fully armed to stand against our enemy.

Luther provides proper balance for our lives that is very Biblical when we consider the questions of evil and demons:

- **Satanic forces are real & powerful**
- **We must stand against them in God's armor**
- **We know that our God will prevail!**

Communion meditation:

1 Corinthians 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; **24** and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." **25** In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. **27** Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. **28** But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. **29** For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. **30** For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. **31** For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. **32** But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. **33** Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.