

DARKNESS DEFEATED

**Gospel
of Luke**



WALKING ON WATER
BIBLE CHURCH



Pastor
Mike Holloway

31133 Hively Ave, Westland MI
11:15 AM Sunday Morning Worship

Luke 4:31-37

- 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.
- 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,

Luke 4:31-37

- 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.

Luke 4:31-37

- 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.

Fallen Condition Focus

- Humanity is trapped in spiritual darkness and powerless to overcome evil apart from the authority and victory of Christ.

Capernaum: The Setting

- Capernaum was a Galilean town of roughly 1,500 people, located on the Sea of Galilee and positioned on a major trade route.
- **Strategic Ministry Location**
- It was a flourishing commercial center
- Capernaum sat along the 'Way of the Sea'
- (Isaiah 9:1), a trade route connecting Damascus, Tyre, Sidon, and Jerusalem.

Application: Strategic Placement

- God often places believers in strategic places: workplaces, neighborhoods, and communities so the gospel can spread through them.
- Luke emphasizes Jesus' teaching on the Sabbaths.
- Teaching in the synagogue was central to His Galilean ministry.

Jesus Teaching in the Synagogue

- Notice the emphasis:
 - He taught
 - He taught in synagogues
 - People praised Him
- **Luke's first summary of Jesus' ministry is teaching, not miracles.**
- Luke connects Authority to TEACHING!!!

Reaction of the Crowd

- The people were astonished **because Jesus taught with authority (exousia)**. His teaching carried divine weight.
- **Jesus did not quote rabbis.**
 - He spoke as the Author of truth
 - He said:
 - “But I say unto you...”
 - “Truly, truly I say to you...”
- Truth has power when it comes from God

Authority Defined

- The Greek word *exousia* means rightful authority, power to command, and sovereign jurisdiction.
- The scribes interpreted authority. Jesus embodied authority.

Contrast with the Scribes

- Jewish teachers quoted previous rabbis and traditions. Jesus declared truth directly and authoritatively.
- Their teaching was:
 - Technical, filled with vain repetitions
 - tradition-bound and spiritually empty
 - They discussed minors while neglecting the majors: justice, mercy, truth
- People are starving for the Truth of the Gospel

Spiritual Warfare Appears

- In the synagogue was a man possessed by an unclean spirit.
- Darkness can exist even in religious environments.
- Church attendance does not equal spiritual freedom.
- Demons are spiritual beings opposed to God, morally corrupt and destructive in their influence.

Understanding Unclean Spirits

- In the Gospels we see two categories:
- Physical illness
- Demonic oppression
- The arrival of Jesus triggered a direct confrontation with the kingdom of darkness.
- Whenever Christ advances, darkness reacts.
- The focus of the passage is not the demon.
- The focus is Christ's authority over the demon.

Immediate Reaction of the Demon

- (vs. 34) “Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth?”
- The demon recognizes Jesus before many people do.
- Demons have correct theology but no redemption.
- James 2:19
- “Even the demons believe—and tremble.
- Knowledge alone does not save.

Immediate Reaction of the Demon

- It is possible to:
- know doctrine
- know Scripture
- know theology
- and still not know Christ.
- Saving faith is not merely knowing facts about Jesus.
- It is submitting to His lordship.

Demon's Cry

- 'What have we to do with you?' is a distancing phrase meaning 'Leave us alone!'
- The demon declares Jesus to be 'The Holy One of God'
- Jesus immediately silences the demon.
- He never allowed demons to testify about Him.
- Truth spoken by demons is still unclean testimony.
- Christ does not allow darkness to promote Him.

The Authority of Jesus

- Jesus rebukes the demon: 'Be quiet and come out of him.' Jesus does not perform:
 - rituals
 - incantations
 - ceremonies
- He simply commands.
- And the demon obeys.
- This demonstrates absolute authority.

Christ Has Ultimate Authority

- Believers must remember:
- Christ has **ultimate authority over darkness.**
- Colossians 2:15 says:
- “Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them.”
- The cross was not a momentary defeat.
- It was a **victory over the kingdom of darkness.**

The Kingdom of God

- Every exorcism demonstrates the beginning of Satan's defeat and the arrival of God's Kingdom.
- Darkness had no choice but to obey the Word of Christ.
- The demon did not negotiate, argue, or resist long.
- It had to leave at the command of Christ

Authority of Christ's Word

- Jesus' word alone drives out the demon. His authority surpasses every spiritual force.
- Colossians 2:15 that Jesus “disarmed principalities and powers and made a public spectacle of them.”
- We have victory over:
 - darkness of sin,
 - darkness of guilt,
 - darkness of fear,
 - darkness of bondage.