

## Luke 4:31-44

### The Authority of the Son of God

Good morning, church.

This morning we will continue in our verse-by-verse study of Luke, we have made it to Chapter 4, verse 31.

We will finish the chapter.

Let us pray...

Remember last time Jesus came to minister in His hometown.

There Jesus declared His purpose and that He was the fulfillment of the prophecy found in Isaiah 62:1,2.

There in Nazareth Jesus was expected to perform some of the mighty works that were being reported across the region of Galilee.

The hometown crowd marveled at Jesus' Words, but could not internalize them, because of their own presumptions.

They could not understand how this ordinary carpenter, that they watched grow up in their midst was now preaching such powerful and elegant sermons.

And Jesus knowing their hearts, calls them out on their pride and their haughty view of themselves.

He exposes their entitlement mentality, by using their own scriptures to show that God has intentions on bringing salvation to all mankind, not just the Jews.

Jesus was the Messiah sent to do this work of redeeming the souls of mankind and reversing the effects of sin on this earth.

And the racist crowd was turned mad, that Jesus would lower them to a place even lower than a Phoenician Widow, a foreigner and a woman.

Then Jesus even used a Syrian Leper as an example of the extent of God's Grace, and this was enough for the bigoted crowd, and they were filled with wrath, and tried to drag Jesus to the cliffs to throw Him down to His death.

But it was not time, and Jesus had much to do in regards to His mission, and instead of combatting the angry crowd, Jesus calmly walks through the enraged mob, and leaves His hometown, never to return.

Now, we saw in Nazareth the blatant rebellion that unbelief causes in a people group.

And because of their unbelief they tragically missed their opportunity know their Messiah.

It says of the time Jesus spent in His hometown in...

**Mark 6:4-6 But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house." 5 Now He could**

do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.

Because of their unbelief, Jesus was limited to what He could do.

You see our God meets us in our faith.

And this morning, we will see Jesus will leave the unbelief in Nazareth to go to a town full of faith, Capernaum, and in this town, Jesus will base His operations and ministry.

We will see the contrast to what we saw in Nazareth, and we will see what is possible when a group of people have faith in Jesus, the Son of God.

When we trust in the Authority of Jesus, and believe that He is capable of all the scriptures declare of Him, we will see that there is hope for any circumstance and trial.

Remember Jesus came to preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to give sight to the blind, and to free the captives.

And the people of Capernaum will believe, and because of their faith, they will be privileged to see a great demonstration of all that Jesus' Authority can accomplish.

So Jesus left Nazareth, and we see now in verse 31 and 32 of chapter 4...

### **Jesus Casts Out an Unclean Spirit(Mark 1:21-28)**

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.

Our new setting brings us to the fishing town of Capernaum.

Luke records Jesus went down, and down He went, as Nazareth was approximately 1200 feet above sea level, and Capernaum is over 650 feet below sea level.

Capernaum was the home of many of Jesus' prominent disciples.

Peter and his brother Andrew, and also James and His brother John all operated their fishing business' from the banks of the Sea of Galilee here in Capernaum.

Jesus would make this His Gilgal, Remember Joshua used Gilgal as a base of operations in the Conquest of Canaan, and frequently he returned there to recoup and strategize war operations, so Jesus would use Capernaum as a staging place for His ministry.

It was a friendly place that was safe for Jesus to rest and refuel.

He would go to and from Capernaum throughout His ministry.

As we will see at the end of this chapter, they loved Jesus, and would have loved for nothing more than for Jesus to stay solely in their town only.

We see Jesus here once again teaching on the Sabbath, and this would be in the synagogue there.

And the people of this blue color city remained astonished at Jesus' teaching.

That word astonished literally means "struck out of themselves."

They were out of their senses in amazement at Jesus' teaching.

Jesus was teaching truth in a time when the teachers of the day were corrupt and had false ideas and egotistic agendas.

And Jesus was here declaring Truth, and Jesus was not shying away from important matters in the culture and everyday life.

He spoke with certainty about life, death and the afterlife.

As the teachers of the day focused on trivial doctrinal matters that related nothing to everyday living in Israel.

Jesus was direct and methodical in His teaching, as the teachers of the day were random and rambled on with no direction or train of thought.

Jesus awoke their curiosity into the things of God by using demonstrative illustrations and bringing the Word of God to life through every day pictures.

The teachers of the day taught dry and wordy sermons with no color to them.

Jesus spoke out of love and concern for the hearer; He was sincerely interested in their well-being and the condition of their soul.

The teachers of Jesus day taught from selfishness and greatly lacked love in their communication.

And lastly, and most importantly, we see here Jesus taught as one having Authority, for His message was from God directly.

Jesus declared in **John 8:26** "I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him."

Jesus was the source of ultimate Truth, and He preached with the Authority.

Jesus used the scriptures and presented the Truths in God's Word simply and with great power.

The teachers of the day prided themselves on never saying anything that was original. They quoted other scribes, who in fact were quoting other scribes.

William Hendrickson says they were trying to draw water from broken cisterns, and Jesus drew from

## Himself being the Fountain of Living Water. P. 264 Hendrickson

And the people were thunderstruck as Jesus spoke and taught in clear language and He challenged them on their living and brought conviction to their lives.

Jesus was using the Sword of the Spirit, and God's Word to effectively fight against the effects of sin and the sway of Satan over mankind.

It was God's Word the Jesus' ministry centered upon.

Remember Jesus defeated Satan with God's Word, and Jesus preached His first sermon from Isaiah 61, when we get to Jesus most profound sermon, on the mount, we can see it is a clear exposition of the Law of God.

Jesus stood on God's Word even after His resurrection, remember to His disciples on the road to Emmaus it says **Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.**

Jesus' awesome, authoritative preaching came solely from the Authority of God's Word.

Jesus opened up the people's hearts and minds to the true intent of the scriptures.

Jesus ministered in the Word, and it struck the culture powerfully.

Understand if we are to have any authority today, if we are to have any influence today in our own culture, it

will not come from doctrines geared to emotion, or preaching sermonettes specially constructed to move the feelings of man.

The church today needs to stand on the Authority of scripture to have a lasting impact in our society.

Otherwise we have no real authority.

Paul instructed Timothy in **2 Tim 2:15-17** to

**15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 16 But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. 17 And their message will spread like cancer.**

The Word of God must be our foundation.

Paul later emphasized this to young Timothy by saying

**2 Tim 4:1-5 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.**

If Jesus' Authority and Impact came from God's Word, so too must the churches today!

Now of course, when someone or a group of people set out to stand on and preach the Word, there will be great opposition, Satan opposes all truth.

Jesus says in...

**John 8:44 Satan was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.**

And here in Capernaum one of Satan's deceitful workers will be found in the church where Jesus is at to assault the truth going forth in that synagogue.

Please know, Satan knows he cannot defeat the church from the outside, so often times he joins the church.

Please don't ever think because we are standing on the authority of Scripture that we will be immune to Satanic attack, he will try to deceive right from the midst our own ranks...

We read now in verse 33-37...

**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.

Now as the awestruck crowd of listeners was captivated by Jesus' teaching, of course Satan could not leave the church service uninterrupted.

Perhaps he already tried to use the person getting up from the front row to walk to the back, and then back to the front row, and the people didn't flinch.

Perhaps the Deceiver already tried to use the two young teenagers taking selfies and laughing as they are in their own world.

Maybe the baby just did not cry loud enough to distract from the Jesus' Words.

Or the cell phone was turned off after only 2 rings, and people regained focus on the truth going forth.

Maybe because all the usual distractions failed that day we see opposition came from the demoniac that sat strategically in a place to cause as much disruption as possible.

The devil noticing the people there that day were receiving every Word from the lips of Jesus.

And the demon knowing what his end would be when he confronted the Son of God, but I see in the spiritual battle here, Satan throws one of his subordinates forward as fodder, as a sacrifice to get the people's attention off the Truth being revealed to them that day.

And the demoniac shrills, and scathes and makes as big a scene as possible, and says, (In evil voice) "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."

Of course, if this demon knows the King of all Spirits, he surely knows he is out of line, and is trying to now counter Jesus' work with a supernatural display of power.

We know nothing of the man, or why he is possessed here.

But as we who are Christians today are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, too those who have opened their lives up to darkness, have opened the door for evil spirits to empower them.

And the demon here actually confesses that Jesus is the Son of God.

Isn't it a sad testimony, that mankind, for whom Jesus came to seek and save, for the most part have rejected Jesus and the Truth of who He is.

And even in Jesus hometown of Nazareth, and really the Jews on a whole did not receive Him.

It says in **John 1:10-11 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.**

Those who should recognize Him, that He was sent by the Father, were blinded by their own pride and preconceptions that they failed to understand who Jesus was.

Yet, this evil spirit, this enemy of God, knows that Jesus has absolute Authority even over the unseen world.

Even an outright enemy of God from the spirit realm is forced to address Jesus with such high honor.

It is only fallen mankind who speaks of God so foolishly, and challenges His Authority so shamelessly. Man has given our Lord the greatest challenge against His Deity and Sovereign rule, and many totally disregard His will altogether, and they mock their eternal doom.

But one day, Jesus will return to this earth, not as a humble carpenter or a lowly Savior, but He will come in all His power and might, and this universe will bow once and for all to His Glory.

In this time of Grace we live in currently, we have a choice to come to Jesus and receive salvation freely,

but if you miss the window of opportunity, and choose to walk in flagrant rebellion toward the King of kings, there will be a day of consequence and judgement coming, and the Bible says...

**Phil 2:10-11 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

Please know that even as Christians our eternal destination is a place where God's Sovereign will is done 100% of the time.

And if you want heaven on earth, than find His will for your life, and stay in that place of obedience.

We are taught by Jesus to pray....

**Matt 6:10**

**10 Your kingdom come.**

**Your will be done**

**On earth as it is in heaven.**

This prayer invites the Authority of God into our lives, or acknowledges it.

And here we see even the demons acknowledge the Authority in Jesus.

But we see in this encounter, the strategy of Satan to distract here is countered by Jesus in a great display of power.

Jesus has no desire to allow this demon spirit to testify of Him.

And Jesus takes this opportunity to demonstrate His Authority even over such a vial spirit as this.

Now, the devil uses fear and shock to control the attention of the people.

And if you have ever been around a demonic spirit controlling a man, fear is one emotion that tries to control the moment.

I remember a time a few years ago, I was taking two teenagers home after spending some time with them at the church.

One was somewhat new to our youth group, and at the time he was searching for truth, but not fully surrendered to Truth.

And he had spent the weekend before in West Hollywood going to a COEXIST church, where they were performing séances and inviting spirits to empower them.

And I was talking to the one young man in the passenger seat, and I heard a frightening noise in back of me, I look in my rear view mirror to see what the growls and snarls were in the back seat.

And the young man had snot flowing from his nose, and his mouth was all foamed up, and a voice was coming from him that was not his.

Speaking promises of power and strength to the young man.

And if I am honest, fear was the first thing that came over me.

You know as Christians we believe in the unseen spiritual world, but when it manifests itself, and our comfortable Christian lives are challenged by the demonic realm, the enemy uses fear to try to paralyze you.

But the Spirit of God came upon me and the young man with me, and I pulled over, and we began praying with all of our might, quoting scripture, trying to talk to the young man and not the spirit.

Now, when you are in that kind of situation, the enemy is in your head, telling you, “Your God is not powerful enough, those prayers are worthless, this will not work.”

And he tries to use confusion, and the demons know some things about us as well, and they can say things that really are personal and throws you off.

So after a about 15 minutes of praying, I knew one of the church elders lived close by, so I jumped in the drivers seat, and sped over to his house.

I called and said, “Hey John, I am battling a demon right now, care to join us?”

We prayed in the mighty Name of Jesus, and fought through the doubts and fear, and trusted in Jesus’ Authority, spoken of in God’s Word.

And the demon eventually came out, and we prayed for about 30 minutes over this young man, until he collapsed and the evil spirit left him.

The young man gave his heart to Jesus, and became a wonderful man of God, he still calls me every week to this day to tell me of all that God is doing in his life.

The other young man who was with me, told me, “Pastor I am quitting watching horror movies cold turkey.”

When those movies become real, you really don’t want to open the door to that kind of influence again.

Now, it did not take Jesus a half an hour in the synagogue that morning, He has all Authority, and in verse 35, He shuts the demon up, and commands him to come out of the imprisoned man.

The demon gets one last fit in, and throws the man down in the midst of the crowd, and our wonderful Dr. Luke records for us at the end of verse 35, the monster did not hurt the man medically.

Now we read the people were amazed at the Word and Authority of Jesus over the unclean spirits.

Understand the exorcists among the Jewish religion were nothing more than tricksters.

The exorcists of the day would use drawn out superstitious rituals, and here Jesus with a Word and with a powerful display dismantled the works of evil.

The Son of Man did not flinch in fear, or did He bother Himself with worry, He did not frantically try to control the situation.

But unmoved and in total control He with the command of a mighty ruler, demands the devil to free the man.

And news of this once again spread quickly throughout the countryside.

Now, something really amazing, if you are going to Israel with us next fall, they have found this synagogue in Capernaum, and you will get to see where Jesus spent many of His Sabbaths and where this demon was expelled.

Also, right down the way from the Synagogue is the home of Peter, where the next scene will take place in our text this morning.

It is interesting, the Catholic Church has built what looks like a giant UFO over the house of their first pope Peter.

They want to preserve is his home, and it just simply looks ridiculous and it ruins the ancient feel of Capernaum.

Yet, they on the other hand, well when I was there, they have left the synagogue where Jesus showed His great Authority over this devil, they have left it completely open to the elements, it is a secondary sight to that of Peter's house.

Seems a little backwards to me.

However, as we will see next, the Catholic Church's most celebrated pope, according to scripture was not celibate man and in fact married, and in his home, his mother-in-law lay sick...

Luke here, giving us a look at one day in the ministry of Jesus records now in verse 38...

### **Peter's Mother-in-Law Healed(Matt 8:14,15; Mark 1:29-31)**

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.

Now the church service in the synagogue would end sometime after noon, and the people would go home for a meal.

Jesus went to His friend and soon to be fulltime disciple's home for the meal.

And when Jesus arrived, Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever.

The literal phrasing Dr. Luke uses here, is this poor woman was "seized by a great fever." Hughes p. 160

Now when we experience a high fever, I am sure all of us have at one time or another, we are paralyzed in pain.

Sometimes even the soft sheets on our bed feel like a million little needles jamming into our skin.

Little things like getting up to go to the bathroom, or even brushing your teeth can seem as daunting as crossing the Sahara Desert with no water.

Now, we don't know if the meal was not cooked or if she painfully endured through the fever to prepare the meal.

But she was not serving it, by the time they arrived, she was laid up, and too exhausted to move.

And all of us have probably seen the way the women in our lives just don't know how to rest.

Jess even when she is sick, cannot stop ministering to the household.

And it seems every time she over does it, and works herself to exhaustion.

And she has no other choice at that point but to lay down and rest.

And I picture this with Peters mother-in-law, she served till she over did it.

And they call for Jesus, concerned for her well-being, and Luke uses the same Word “rebuke” ‘*eptimao*’ as he used for the unclean spirit.

Jesus rebuked the fever, and as one second she is soaked with sweat and shaking from chills going through her body, and at the command and rebuke of Jesus, the next moment she was cheerfully up and serving the meal!

And the boisterous Peter probably bragged to his guests, as she served them faithfully and fully healed.

And Jesus was lifted up and exalted in this home.

Dr. Luke attests that this healing was instant and it was a complete.

And isn't this picture of Peter's mother-in-law a consistent picture we see in the church today.

Those who were most dyer in their situation, most desperate, overcome with the dreadful sickness of sin.

And in a moment, Jesus comes into their lives and heals us, and out of gratitude and thanksgiving, immediately and consistently those who have felt His touch serve the Lord Jesus with their lives.

They serve with joy and not out of obligation, and they are thrilled to give back to Jesus, who has given them such a miraculous healing in their lives.

Usually the ones complaining and overwhelmed with their service to the Lord, have not honestly assessed all that He has done in their lives.

There should be no talk of sacrifice among the servants of Christ, what can we possibly consider sacrifice in light of all that Christ has given us.

Jesus being the perfect sacrifice for our sins was offered up for our behalf, and if we would believe on Him, we have the hope of eternal life with Him, and we are spared the wrath of God, and eternal torment.

**Heb. 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.**

And for those who understand the depth of His Work in our lives, we serve Him joyfully.

The true measure of a Christian today is not how many servants are under them, but by how they serve others.

Pastor Joe and I got to go to a Career fair at one of the Local schools this week, and we spent the whole day sharing to the kids about fulltime ministry.

It was awesome, we found many of the kids, especially the foreign exchange students were not Christian's, so

many of the sessions we just got to open air preach the gospel to them.

It seemed God had a different Bible study planned for each group as Joe and I every 20 minutes got a new group before us.

And as we shared about fulltime ministry as a career option, we had to work through some of the misconceptions that the American Church has gotten very wrong according to scripture.

We explained that there are churches where you can go to college to become a minister, and choose it as a career path, and get a title and a decent wage.

But biblical ministry is a calling, and although many churches today have adopted Corporate American principles where the pastor is on top, like a boss or CEO.

We explained Biblical ministry is actually reverse than that of Corporate America, where their pyramid is the pastor is at the top, our pyramid is upside down.

And a pastor is really at the bottom, a servant of all.

And we used the upper room as a template, where Jesus Himself set the greatest example of ministry.

Where Jesus took His robe off, and rapped a towel around His waist, and grabbed the basin of water, and one by one washed His disciple's feet.

And when He had finished, He told them that He had given them this example to follow after He left them.

And this is the true template of ministry, not opulence, not power, there is no room for glory, there is no room for egos, we serve.

And this is the greatest test and template I put forth when someone comes to me and tells me they are called into fulltime ministry.

I watch to see if they can lower themselves to clean toilets, to pick up trash, to serve the ministries here faithfully and without me patting them on the back or telling them what to do.

And when the servant in them is evident, and humility and gratitude stands out, then we can pray about their calling.

But the calling will be evident in the way they serve, not the way they orate a message, or dictate a sermon, but the calling is lived out when no one is looking but our Lord.

My father had a gentleman who was new to the church come in and give his list of accomplishments, and told him that he was a great preacher, and if my father ever wanted him to share at his pulpit, he could fill in for him, and he listed all the places he shared, and wanted to give a CD of his teaching. He shared proudly about his education.

My father told him, “Well you have just out yourself on the 2 year plan.”

And he was told it would long time before he would be considered for anything ministry related.

He was challenged instead to serve faithfully somewhere, and of course, since there was no fast track to the pulpit the man left and did not come back.

It is through service we get the true measure of a Christian.

I remember complaining another time to my father, how ungrateful people were to my service, and how they didn't realize the gift they had in me serving them, and if you know my father, he is not a pat you on the back kind of guy, and he said “Son, you will know what kind of servant you are, when people treat you like a servant.”

Oh and that cut me to the heart, I was not that good of a servant when people treated me like a servant.

Well, I would like to say that was the last time I complained about the burden of serving, but it was a great lesson, and really I just learned not to complain to my father.

But when your service gets this way, and you are complaining about being a servant, take just a moment to reflect on the healing Jesus has done in your life, and reflect on all that He has done for you in light of

your eternity, and the spiritual healing that has taken place in your life.

And it will not take long, before you, like Peter's mother-in-law are wistfully back in the service of Jesus with joy in your heart.

What an example we have in this woman.

So moving on in this day of ministry for Jesus, at sunset the Sabbath would be over, and Word had spread, and the people would start jostling around Capernaum once again.

And now that the day of rest was over the people quickly made their way to the Great Healer at Peter's house.

And Jesus who might be wanting to rest at this point, will find strength to keep ministering...

**Many Healed After Sabbath Sunset(Matt 8:16,17; Mark 1:32-34)**

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.

We see suffering masses now gathering at Peter's home, and many for the first time in their miserable lives, they had some kind of hope.

Those with fevers, those with missing limbs, those with crippled legs and arms, some with demoralizing skin diseases, the palsy and the blind.

Imagine this scene at sunset, as the lighting dimmed, the sick mob making their way through the streets toward Jesus.

Those who have been in hiding, and outcasts were boldly making their way down the dark roads that evening for a hope of someone to heal them.

Some surely had to be carried, and we see even the spiritually tormented among this grief stricken crowd.

Perhaps the demoniacs were bound and dragged to Jesus.

And we see Jesus here indiscriminately healing ALL who came to Him that evening.

And under the flickering light of candles and torches Jesus healed every one of these people.

And here we see the extent of what His hometown missed by their unbelief.

Here the citizenry of Capernaum met Jesus with faith and hope, and the miraculous took place, for everyone who came to Jesus that wonderful night.

Luke the physician is very careful to point out that Jesus laid hands on every one of them.

It had been too long for many of them that night since they felt the hands or embrace of any human being.

And Jesus worked so compassionately, as the Great Physician, He showed no fear of their ailments, nor did He regard the fact if these people were contagious, all sickness fled under the Authority of Christ.

The demons that night testified to who Jesus was, as they were evicted from those that they enslaved.

But Jesus did not want or need the testimony from the darkness of this world.

He was in fact the Christ, but His ministry would be all the testimony He needs. Jesus fulfilled the Isaiah 62 scriptures, and God's Word was the only testimony He desired.

Now, after Jesus healed every one that came to Him that evening, we read that He sought a place of isolation, where He could commune with His Father.

### **Jesus Preaches in Galilee(Matt 4:23-25; Mark 1:35-39)**

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.

After a full day of ministry, Jesus seeks a deserted place to pray.

But in Capernaum, as the people are spending time trying out their new working hands, jumping around on healed legs, being able to see their loved ones, perhaps for the first time.

The people are rejoicing in their renewed lives.

I can envision a healed leper, a father being able to hug his children again, as they touched his smooth skin.

A mother having her first conversation with her son since the demon had taken his mind and body over.

Or we can imagine the parents who thought surely because their infant was struck with fever the babe was going to perish, and now the healed child was well and full of life, and the parents filled with joy and reverence.

The city of Capernaum was rejoicing and praising God over the encounter they had with Jesus.

But they got Word Jesus was leaving, and perhaps they were being selfish, but they wanted Jesus all to themselves, and tried to keep Him from leaving.

Imagine keeping a whole town free from ailment and spiritual bondage, the prospects of such a town would be great.

But of course the Messiah did not come for one town in Galilee, but for all Israel to have opportunity, and from Israel, all men in every age would have a choice to receive the Messiah as Savior.

Jesus must go and find others who would believe, this was His purpose, to preach the Kingdom of God to all.

Now this is the first time Luke uses this the phrase “Kingdom of God.”

He will use it 31 more times.

Now we spent some time at the Temptations of Christ learning of this world, and the ruler of this world, the devil, and we discussed his rule there.

But the Bible also speaks of a greater Kingdom than that of the serpents.

It is the Kingdom of God, **Ps 24:1 The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.**

And the only way to get out from under the tyranny of Satan is to take up your citizenship in the greater Kingdom that Jesus came to provide entrance too.

When we put our faith in Jesus, our loyalty and residence become a part of this Greater Kingdom.

Jesus will explain later that the Saints of the previous dispensation, the Old Testament Saints who looked ahead to their Savior are also within this Kingdom of God.

Speaking of the judgment of God, Jesus says... **Luke 13:28 ...Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God...**

And the Old Testament believers are put within this greater Kingdom.

And today the Kingdom of God is represented by the Church of Jesus Christ.

Jesus makes this clear in **Luke 17:21 For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.**

It is in the midst of God's Spiritual Children, and it will also be fully manifested when Christ comes and defeats evil and rebellion on this earth once and for all.

Then the Kingdom of God will reach its full representation.

But today, the way we come into this glorious Kingdom, is through faith in Jesus, God's Son, who came to seek and save that which was lost to the kingdom of darkness.

Jesus came to preach this glorious Kingdom, and we see in verse 44 He went on a preaching circuit throughout the region.

Notice His ministry was primarily that of preaching, it was not a ministry centered on miracles or the supernatural.

Jesus had a message that contained truth, and truth is humanities greatest need.

John 14:6 Jesus said ... , "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Please know, there is no hope for humanity apart from this Truth found solely in Jesus.

It is only through Jesus that one can find deliverance from the bondage of darkness and freedom from the confines of Satan's dominating kingdom on this earth.

The people of Capernaum recognized Jesus, and believed on Him, and their lives were never the same.

What a contrast to that of Nazareth.

And today people still respond one of two ways, they either remain in their unbelief and choose to walk in their own understanding and blindness.

They reject Jesus as Savior, and find no freedom from Satan's rule in this life.

But many still today respond to the Truth, and they are open, and their hearts receive all that Jesus has to offer them.

Now this morning, we have a choice on how we respond to Jesus, either we believe and receive, or we disbelieve and reject all that Christ has to offer us.

Now if I am addressing any this morning who are in trouble, if there are any here who are in deep sorrow.

This morning, perhaps you are bound in the shackles of sin, your life is controlled by the power of habit.

If you like those in Capernaum would simply come to Jesus in faith, your lives will be healed.

Jesus is now in heaven, He is seated in His throne, and at the right hand of the Father.

Yet Jesus still reigns supreme, and if you would only come to Him, if you would just reach out the hand in faith you would feel the healing hand of our Savior touch your life.

You might be thinking “How do you know that preacher?”

You might be thinking that I am speaking too confidently of these things.

Well I and many in this room have reached our hand out in faith, and Jesus delivered us and touched our lives.

Jesus will deliver all who call upon Him in faith, and confess Him as Savior.

Don't wait another day, come to Him this morning.

There will be men up here this morning, during this last song, come up and pray with one of them, and receive His healing touch.

Our God is not far off, He is very present, His Spirit is at work here right now, and if only you would believe He would show you His power.

Please whatever troubles you are in this morning, if you are already a believer, please know, the Jesus that worked in Capernaum that day, is still our Jesus today.

Come to Him with your ailments, your grief, come to Him in your hour of need, and let Him work in your life.

Come to the one who has all Authority and bring Him your burdens this morning.

Please come and get prayer this morning.

Let's pray....