

Gospel According to Luke
August 12, 2018
Reading: Isaiah 14:12-20

Sermon #14
Luke 4:31-44

Jesus' Authority Evidenced

This morning we focus on Luke's writing about Jesus' early ministry, as he was traveling the country preaching and teaching. Above all else Jesus was a preacher. Matthew records that at the outset of his Galilean ministry Jesus focus was on teaching and preaching. Matthew wrote, **"When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities."** (Matthew 11:1) Jesus revealed God's purpose for mankind through preaching and teaching and we follow Jesus' pattern today. Bible studies, small groups and one-on-one discipleship are great and important, but there is something about preaching the Word of God that God's gives spiritual power to. A balanced Christian life is made up of study and meditation on God's Word, time spent in prayer and communicating with God, time with other believers discussing God's Word its meaning and purpose, and coming together in corporate worship to hear the preaching of God's Word. One cannot be a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ, in the fullest sense that the Bible teaches as a "lone wolf", we are called to live in community. Let us now go to the Lord in prayer to prepare our hearts and minds to hear his Word preached.

In our passage this morning there are 3 main ideas that demonstrate Jesus' authority as God the Son. Jesus demonstrates his power and authority over demons, in healing the sick and in preaching God's message of salvation. Jesus' preaching and teaching is interwoven into his power and authority over demons and healing the sick, therefore preaching is paramount. Everything Jesus did – preaching, healings, miracles and his prayer life was to bring glory to God his

Father and that is to be the goal of our lives as well. We are to live in obedience as Jesus lived in obedience. We are to serve others as Jesus served. We are to model our lives after Christ with the goal of bringing glory to God. Jesus showed his authority by preaching and then dealing with a demon.

Authority To Cast Out Demons

We begin in Luke chapter 4 with verses 31 to 37. Please stand as brother **Elijah** reads God's Word. "And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath,³² and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority.³³ And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice,³⁴ 'Ha! What have you to do with us, 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 silent and come out of him!' And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm.³⁶ And they were all amazed and said to one another, 'What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!'³⁷ And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region."

Please be seated.

The usual custom for teaching or preaching in synagogues when someone was from outside the community was to begin by giving their pedigree; where they had studied and under which well known rabbis, etc. This was done to establish ones creditability. Jesus did not do this, but he taught with authority that was his alone as the Messiah and people were both astonished and drawn to him.

Not everyone in the synagogue was there to learn and understand God better.

Just like not everyone today in church is a believer and desires to grow in relationship with Christ. Even though it was common in the ancient world for people to think problems and afflictions were because of evil spirits the Bible has little to say about demons prior to the incarnation and little to say after Jesus' resurrection. However, during the ministry of Jesus there are many references to evil spirits and demons. Why? Why, would this be? I believe it is because Jesus had come to destroy the stronghold of Satan and execute God the Father's plan for salvation and begin the process in history taking us to the 2nd Coming and the end of human earthly history and the advent of eternity. For those who believe in Christ as their Lord and Savior and because of their relationship with God through Christ they actually begin to experience eternity while on earth because they are indwelled with the Holy Spirit. Satan had been preparing for war over the souls of humanity for centuries and now with the incarnation of Jesus the war burst into full battle.

Is this what you think of when you are thinking of Satan? What about when Satan appears as an angel of light according to 2 Corinthians 11:14? I wanted to spend a little time defining what we do and do not know about demons. It seems that people tend to gravitate towards discounting the spirit world or seeing a demon under every rock or behind every door. I want to explore what the Bible tells us.

What do we know is God created angels to serve him. There are verses in Ezekiel 28, Isaiah 14, Hebrews 12 and Revelation 9 and 12 that indicate the Lucifer, an angel of rank, rebelled because he desired to be worshipped to receive glory for himself. Because of his pride and desire to rob God of glory he was cast away from God and was no longer Lucifer the "Day Star". He is now called Satan or the devil and he took 1/3 of the angels with him and they are fallen angels or demons.

While there is no verse that says “a third of the angels fell from heaven,” some verses, when put together, lead to that conclusion. Angels were created prior to the earth and mankind. Sometime after creation, and most certainly after the sixth day when everything was declared “very good” by God in Genesis 1:31, Satan rebelled and was cast out of heaven. “How you are fallen from heaven, *Lucifer (literally translated) O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low!*” (Isaiah 14:12) This is likely the source for the writing “pride goes before the fall.”

Jesus said, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven” in Luke 10:18 and in the Book of Revelation, Satan is seen as “a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit.” (Revelation 9:1) We are also told in Hebrews chapter 12 that in the new heavenly Jerusalem there are “innumerable angels” (Hebrews 12:22) In the Book of Revelation we learn that John saw this great wonder in heaven, “a great red dragon ... ⁴His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. ... ⁷Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, ⁸but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. ⁹And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.” (Rev. 12:3-9)

We can conclude that since Satan is referred to as the “Day Star” which was cast out of heaven down to earth and because Revelation 12:4 says the great red dragon is Satan, “His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth” that the stars referred to fallen angels or 1/3 of the heavenly. If this is accurate then we can be at peace for 2/3s of the angels remained faithful to God. For angels and demons their choice is done and demons cannot be redeemed. For

those who belong to Christ that means 2/3 of the angels remained loyal to God and they are on our side. In Revelation chapter 5, John observed in heaven there are “many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands”, (Revelation 5:11) Jesus himself said, “Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?” (Matthew 26:53) Therefore, the number of angels is beyond our ability to count.

Unlike God who is omnipresent and God only is omnipresent, Satan and his fellow demons, as well as, angels are not. In 2 Kings chapter 6 we read angels are not normally seen by mankind. However in Genesis 18, Luke 1 and Mark 16 we are instructed that God allows them to appear to people at times. All biblical references to angels are male and they are different from other created heavenly beings with no indication that they have wings. However, Daniel chapter 9 indicates that angels move as if they are flying.

Angels and demons are subject to the authority of God - God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Angels serve God and help mankind; demons serve Satan and blind mankind to their Creator and work to keep people in the state of sin. Jesus has authority over angels and demons and so beginning in Luke 4:33 we read “And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴ ‘Ha! What have you to do with us, 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 silent and come out of him!’ ” Demons know who Jesus is and both fear and submit to his authority. If you call this an exorcism then we need to understand the word “exorcist” means one who binds with an oath. Jesus has this authority to bind. There were no rituals and formulas for remove the demon, just the word of Jesus who is God and had the authority of God. An exorcism is not like what the movies portray – the

demon was removed at that moment by the authority of God. We have no authority over angels or demons - the authority over them belongs to God. Just as the disciples cast out demons by their word of authority given by God, if we cast out a demon it is by the word of authority given by God. Angels and demons are not to be worshipped – all worship belongs to God alone. The Holy Spirit possesses Christians indwelling their souls and a true believer cannot be possessed by a demon. Neither Satan nor his demons are omnipresent or omnipotent as God is and they cannot read your mind - they only know what they know by your speech and behavior.

The spiritual world is equally real as our physical world. As redeemed children of God we may be harassed by a demon because of our sins, but a believer cannot be possessed by a demon. So what are we to do? Ephesians lays it out in detail, [“be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”](#) (Ephesians 6:10-11) You may want to spend some time in Ephesians chapter 6 where it explains what the [“whole armor of God”](#) is.

Finally, how do we rank with angels? Using Hebrews 2 and 1 Corinthians 6 we understand that while we live here on earth we are lower than angels. However, when Christians enter heaven we will be higher than angels because we are the sons and daughters of the only living God.

Jesus has authority over everything created, however he does not force himself upon mankind but calls them to himself through the Word of God, the Spirit of God and through the gospel given to his children to share with the world. Jesus authority has no limits.

Authority To Heal

As we seek to understand the purpose of Jesus' healing people of the sicknesses and the role of demons I would ask you to rise as brother **Garth** reads from Luke chapter 4, verses 38 to 41, "And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. ³⁹ And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them."

"Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who 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, 'You are the Son of God!' But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ."

Please be seated.

The effects of the Fall in the garden are universal and have devastated mankind ever since and will continue to ravage mankind until Christ returns. As sin increased, sickness and disease increased and the life expectancy of mankind diminished. People's life expectancy has increased since the 20th century because of better nutrition and medicine, not because sin has decreased. Think about sexually transmitted diseases; they could be wiped off the face of the earth in 2 generations without spending 1 dollar if people no longer sinned and lived the moral lives God calls them to. But, because of fallen man's sin nature - physical birth is the beginning of the process of dying. People's only hope is Christ who saves ones soul and gives one spiritual birth for eternity even though their bodies suffer the physical effects of the Fall – sin continues to ravage the world. In these few verses, Garth just read, we observe a specific illustration of Jesus' authority

over the physical world and a general principal as well. It seems to me that Simon Peter had more on his mind than inviting this rabbi, this Jesus, with the authority of God for just the Sabbath meal - for his mother-in-law was seriously ill. We know not her name. Outside of the 12 apostles and a small group of people we are not given the names of those who preached or were healed or were martyred because they are the vessel used by God to show his glory – it is not about them but about God’s glory. The same is true today, God may use us for his glory, but it is not about how special God has gifted us, it is about his glory.

We read for the first time here in Luke chapter 4 about Simon who would become known as Peter. He had not yet been called by Jesus to be 1 of the 12. Simon is a member of the synagogue at Capernaum. We are made aware that Simon Peter was from the town of Bethsaida on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee about 100 miles east of Capernaum from John’s gospel account, “[Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.](#)” (John 1:44) At some point Simon Peter moved to Capernaum with his brother Andrew and they operated a fishing business with their partners, the brothers James and John. Simon heard the preaching of Jesus and witnessed his authority over the demon and invited Jesus to his house for the Sabbath meal. Mark chapter 1 adds that James and John went also. Luke does not give Simon’s background because at the time he wrote his gospel account Simon Peter was well known.

When Jesus arrives at Simon’s house it says “they” meaning all present asked Jesus to help Simon’s mother-in-law. Jesus does **not just** speak to heal her but he takes her hand, a sign of tenderness and speaks rebuking the fever and she is healed. The term “Jesus rebuked” is used in the New Testament to show his authority over demons and calming the sea in Mark chapter 4. Jesus has authority over all creation. Notice too that when Jesus healed there was no lingering

weakness, no period of healing – she was healed, completely healed at once and this is why, as verse 39 says, “[immediately she rose and began to serve them.](#)”

Today we want to avoid miracles, such a healings because of the abuse. When someone claims to have done a miracle – we should evaluate; is it about the glory of God or about how special that person is in their anointing? Is the miracle for the purpose of testifying to the truth of God or about the person? Is the miracle for the benefit of the church? Miracles are for the purpose of bringing God glory, increasing people’s faith and it is not about the person – they are the object God uses. Working overseas in areas where there were no believers or church Joyce and I saw miracles, signs and wonders. However, as people began giving their lives to Christ and the church was established and the Bible was translated into their language, the signs and wonders diminished, as they were not longer needed.

Consider how Jesus healed as compared to what is seen today: Jesus healed or cast out demons with his word, what he spoke happened immediately, there we no phases or process - it happened completely, as verse 40 tells us, “[he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them](#)” Jesus did not heal some and leave others. There was no indication as modern “faith healers” say, God has gifted them and they have a special anointing – so those they heal have true faith and those who are not healed lack faith – it has everything to do with the authority of the healer for they are anointed by God. Jesus healed the obvious – he did not heal vague or invisible ailments – he restored completely the mobility of the paralyzed, the sight of the blind, hearing to deaf ears, cleansed the lepers and on and on. A number of today’s faith healers claim they have raised the dead, if only you had been there to see it. Jesus did raise the dead, not some who appeared dead, but those who had been dead for days, in front a many witnesses. Most of the people Jesus healed were unbelievers and they were then able to make absolute

confessions of who Jesus was – the Christ and the change he creates in ones life.

After Jesus’ resurrection the apostles, as seen in Luke 9 and the 70 as found in Luke 10 and a few close associates of the apostles; Barnabas in Acts 15, Philip in Acts chapter 8 and Stephen in Acts chapter 6 were given the gift of healing to authenticate who they were and the truth of their preaching. Remember the New Testament had not been written yet. The characteristics of their healings were the same as those of Jesus. So, today the characteristics of a healing would be the same as Jesus and would authenticate the preaching of Jesus’ gospel. Therefore, the need for miraculous signs and wonders diminishes once the church is established – for it is the church that authenticates the truth of Christ by living out God’s written Word through the power of the Living Word and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus’ word had power because he had the authority of God. Jesus’ spoken word had power and this is why most of his time was spent teaching and preaching.

Authority to Preach

We now come to the final point in Luke’s gospel passage for this morning. Please stand while brother **Ivan** reads God’s Word – Luke chapter 4, verses 42 to 44.

“And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, ⁴³ but he said to them, ‘I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.’ ⁴⁴ And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.” Praise God for His truth revealed in His Word!

Please be seated.

Chapter 4 ends with this short and simple statement of purpose. First Jesus separated himself from the people, as Mark's gospel reveals, to be alone to pray and spend time with God his Father. However, the people were awe struck by Jesus' authority in preaching and power over demons and sickness and sought him out. Jesus does not rebuke the people for being awed by the miraculous signs, but he wanted them to understand that they were only meant to validate his authority given by God and his primary mission was to preach the Word of God for people to understand that because of the Fall and sin they were separated from God and he, Jesus the Christ, was the only way to be reconciled back to God. So he tells the people his prime directive, found in verse 43, is **"I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose."**

Jesus preached throughout Judea so people would see the result of sin was not just physical and for the short duration of ones lifetime but more importantly sin separates one from God spiritually and that has dire consequences for all eternity. We are called to preach or teach the Word of God and Jesus crucified and resurrected – He is the Living God and the only way to be reconciled back to God.

To recap the miracles, signs and wonders performed by Jesus and the other men in the Bible were meant to validate the message or preaching they were doing. Miracles are not the ends to a means, but they support the authority of one's preaching the Word of God. It is the written Word and the Living Word, Jesus that has authority and power, not the messenger. This is why Canyon Bible, as "remnant" church, differs from the "broad" church - we believe the Bible is the Word of God and needs no tweaking or change from man. Our purpose is to understand the Bible in order to live out its precepts. To live as individuals, as families and as a church lives that bring glory to God and to share God's message of salvation to mankind that is found only in the Bible as God has given it. Amen!