

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

"THE AUTHORITATIVE WORD OF JESUS"

For individual study or discussion

Continuing with the narrative of the onset of Jesus' public ministry, in this week's passage, we see that all who hear Jesus marvel at His words. Conversations are sparked throughout the region as more and more hear Him preach and see miracles performed.

The passage today particularly draws our attention to the authority with which Christ spoke. His word had power to cast out demons, to heal, and to transform lives.

- Read Matt. 7:28-29 and Mark 6:2. How did the crowds respond to Christ's teaching?
- How do you respond to Jesus' teaching in this passage? When you're reading God's Word, do you recognize it as authoritative?

Luke is making it clear in this passage that Jesus' word is not a word to be dismissed by anyone, not even Satan and his minions (see Luke 4:12). In verse 35, Christ has the prince of the power of the air in check, as he muzzles even his demon by saying, "Be silent!" (See also Luke 4:41, 9:42).

The people were amazed! They asked, "What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out (vs 36)." 1 John 3:8 says, "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil."

- If you were asked the question, "Why did Jesus come to earth?" how would your answer compare to 1 John 3:8?
- How did Jesus destroy the works of the devil? What does it mean for you?

In verse 37, we read that Jesus' fame spread throughout the countryside. He became the "talk of the town." People began to wonder, "Can this be the Son of David?" (Matt 12:23), "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." (Matt 9:33), "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?" (Matt 13:54).

- When meditating on this passage, what thoughts or questions arise in your mind about Jesus?
- Jesus said that his casting out of demons was proof that "...the kingdom of God has come upon you." Read Luke 11:14-23 for further study.

As you reflect on this week's sermon, recall Martin Luther's great battle hymn of the Reformation, *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*:

*The prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.*

...one little word, "It is finished!" and the devil's work is undone.

DATE: September 19

SPEAKER: Chad/Brian

SERIES: Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 4:31-37

Family Dinner Table

In his commentary on Luke, English pastor and theologian, J.C. Ryle, wrote:

"Let us beware of an unsanctified knowledge of Christianity. It is a dangerous possession, but a fearfully common one in these latter days. We may know the Bible intellectually, and have no doubt about the truth of its contents. We may have our memories well stored with its leading texts...and all this time the Bible may have no influence over our hearts, and wills, and consciences. We may, in reality, be nothing better than the devils."¹

James 2:19 says, "...even the demons believe and shudder!" Read 1 John 3:10. A true faith should bear fruit in our lives. Discuss together the following questions²:

1. Does our knowledge of sin make us hate it?
2. Does our knowledge of Christ make us trust and love him?
3. Does our knowledge of God's will make us strive to do it?
4. Does our knowledge of the fruits of the Spirit make us labor to show them in our daily behavior?

¹⁻²taken from J.C. Ryle's commentary on Luke

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