

The Gospel of Luke

Lesson 08

After the time of temptation and testing in the desert, Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit to begin His public ministry. As He taught in synagogues, news of Him spread throughout the countryside and everyone praised Him. Back in Nazareth, Jesus went to the synagogue as was His custom on the Sabbath, stood up to read and was handed the scroll of Isaiah. He found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Sitting down, Jesus said, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Initially everyone spoke well of Jesus. However, as He began to challenge their skeptical hearts and minds with such statements as "no prophet is accepted in his hometown," the people became furious and attempted to throw Him off the brow of the hill on which the town was built. Jesus escaped by walking through the crowd and continued on His way to fulfilling all of God's purposes for His life.

In this lesson, we will see that Jesus begins to establish the kingdom of God here on earth, first by teaching with authority, second by healing, and third by confronting demons and taking command of them. Before you begin to study, please take a moment to pray and ask God to teach you and settle your own heart and attitude toward Him so that you might grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus, who is the fullest expression of the Lord's favor.

Teaching, Healing and Destroying the Works of the Devil

1. Read Luke 4:31-44. Refer to one of the maps in your Bible to locate Capernaum. Where is it?

2. Using a dictionary, define *teach*.

3. From verse 31, what did Jesus begin to do?

4. From verse 32, why were the people amazed?

5. Using a dictionary, define *authority*.

6. Referring to John 8:25-32:
 - A. Why do you think Jesus' message had authority?

 - B. What are the three results of holding to Jesus' teaching?

C. From your own life:

(1) How have you been amazed at Jesus' teaching?

(2) In what ways have you come to know the truth?

(3) How has knowing the truth set you free?

7. From Luke 4: 33-36

A. Describe what is taking place.

B. What does the demon say? What does the demon know that the people do not?

- C. From 1 John 3:8 and the demon's remark, what is one of the purposes of Jesus' coming to earth?

 - D. How does Jesus demonstrate His authority over the evil spirit, thus authenticating 1 John 3:8? How is the satanic kingdom submitting and bowing to the kingdom of God?

 - E. What happens to the man possessed by the demon?

 - F. What is the people's reaction to this amazing deliverance and demonstration of authority?

 - G. What is your reaction?
8. From verses Luke 4: 38-41
- A. Where does Jesus go?

B. What does He do?

C. What results?

D. Refer back to Luke 4:16-30. How do these results compare with those in Nazareth?

9. As Jesus begins to exercise His authority as the Son of God and Son of Man, why do you think He commands the demons to be quiet and does not allow them to speak?

10. Read John 13:1-17 and Matthew 20:20-28.

A. What does Jesus say about how authority and lordship are to be exercised in the kingdom of God? What does He do?

B. How can these principles be applied in today's world?

11. From Luke 4: 42-44, what does Jesus say He must continue to do?
Why? What did He do? What encourages you from this model?