

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #09

Passage: Luke 4:31-44

Sermon Date: Nov 13, 2005

Introduction:

Jesus has just publicly announced his ministry and been rejected and had his life threatened in his hometown. He then heads down to the town of Capernaum, where he encounters demons and has opportunities to heal people. Before digging into this text, consider your own beliefs about a few things.

Which of the following is easiest for you to believe?
Which is hardest to believe?

- Disease was and is real
- Jesus can and did heal disease
- Demons were and are real
- Jesus can and did cast out demons

What makes some of these harder to believe (and then to live as if they are fully true)?

This Bible study was developed by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. To hear a sermon on the same scripture passage covered in this Bible study, come to one of our Sunday worship services (8:30am or 11:00am) on the date listed on page 1. Or after that date you can hear it by logging on to www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/

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Pray: Before you start this Bible study, take a minute to ask God to help you understand this passage, what it teaches about who Jesus was and is, and how it relates to your life.

Bible Study:

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the chart below to make observations and jot down any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>³¹Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath began to teach the people. ³²They were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority.</p> <p>³³In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an evil spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, ³⁴"Ha! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"</p> <p>³⁵"Be quiet!" Jesus said sternly. "Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him.</p> <p>³⁶All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What is this teaching? With authority and power he gives orders to evil spirits and they come out!" ³⁷And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>³⁸Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. ³⁹So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.</p> <p>⁴⁰When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. ⁴¹Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Christ.</p> <p>⁴²At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. ⁴³But he said, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." ⁴⁴And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

See parallel passages: Matt 4:13-16,23-25 Matt 8:14-17 Mark 1:21-39

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Dig Deeper & Wider:

5. What are some similarities and differences between Jesus' reception and activities in Nazareth (Luke 4:16-30) and Capernaum (Luke 4:31-44)?

6. Explore these passages. Based on them, what observations can you make about the nature of demons?

Job 4:18

Matt 25:41

John 8:44

2 Cor 4:4

2 Pet 2:4

Jude 6

Rev 12:7-9

7. Demons are bad news for man. Now for some good news ...

a. What do these scriptures tell us Jesus has authority over?

Lk 4:31-37

Lk 4:38-41

Lk 10:17

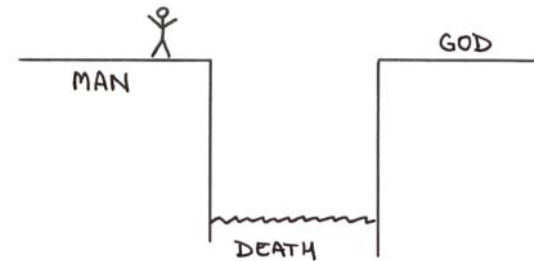
Mt 28:18

b. Based on the above, what aspects of your life do you believe Jesus has authority over?

c. Are you living as if this is true? Where and how might you yield control of your life more fully to Jesus' authority?



d. The Ultimate Yield: The Bible says in Romans 10:9 "That if you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Have you done this? If not, ask someone to help you understand this basic truth of Christianity – which is called the "gospel" or the good news of Christ.



Think about it this way. We stand on one side of a chasm, and God is on the other side. Man was once together with God (walking in unity in the Garden of Eden), but our sin separated us from him.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

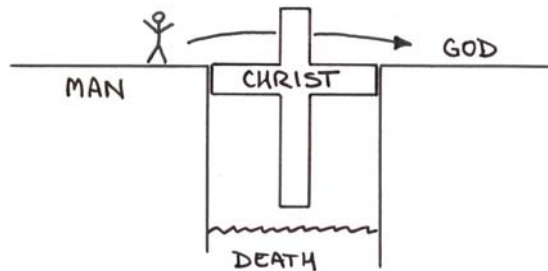
God loves us, indeed he is love. But he is also "light", and as such cannot tolerate the darkness of our sin. In fact, we literally deserve the death penalty for our sinful behaviors.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

Nothing we can do or say or be can bring us back together with God. Nothing. But ...

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

Jesus completed a rescue mission by coming to earth as a man – a sinless man – and taking our sin upon his innocent self, and dying on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin. Then he rose from the dead, conquering sin and death, and enabling us, through faith in him, to be reunited with our loving Father forever.



The price has been paid. We can be free. It is a gift. Our only role in the process is to accept this gift.

If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)

If you believe this is true, then tell God. Tell him that you believe Christ died and rose from the dead to take away your sins and restore your relationship with God. Tell him you yield control of your life to him. Ask him to be your Lord and Savior. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Now that’s some good news!

[If you have just prayed to receive Christ, be sure to tell a Christian friend so they can help you take some appropriate next steps.]

8. In Luke 4:42-44 Jesus rises early in the morning and goes out to a solitary place to pray (cf. Mark 1:35). Then we see him resolutely setting out to accomplish the rest of his mission. What personal applications from this Bible study do you want to be resolute about accomplishing?