

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 4

The Beginning of Jesus' Ministry

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The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective This lesson will demonstrate the authority of Jesus over all the world and, by extension, over you and me.

Key Verses

Luke 4:31-44—Main Teaching Passage

Matthew 11:30

1 John 5:3

Memory Verse - Luke 4:32

"And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, Romans 5:8.

Have a student come up. Ask the student what rules they would make if they were the teacher. Tell them they can be as creative as they want (e.g. all students must bring a pony to class). Ask the students why they have to listen to your rules rather than this other student's. Explain that it is because you have authority over this class while the student does not. In today's story, Jesus will demonstrate His authority.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

Having successfully completed the two phases of His preparation (His baptism and temptation in the wilderness), Luke 4:31-44 presents the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry in a town called Capernaum. It was quickly apparent that there was something different about this man: He had authority. The crowd noticed this authority in His teaching almost immediately (vs. 31-32). However, His authority also extended over demons (vs. 33-37, 41) and sickness (vs. 38-40). He cast out demons and healed the mother-in-law of Simon Peter, a man who would soon become one of Jesus' followers.

Clearly, there was something different about this Man. The demons knew who He was: the Holy One, the Son of God (vs. 34, 41). But Jesus did not allow demons to be the ones to reveal who He was. He let His own authority do the talking. These miracles, accompanied by Jesus' powerful teaching, caused the people of Capernaum to insist that He stay with them. However, Jesus told them that it was necessary for Him to preach the kingdom of God to other cities. This was why He was sent. The passage ends by telling us that Jesus did indeed preach in synagogues throughout Galilee.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

From the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, it was readily apparent to everyone He met that something was different about Him. He taught, just like others in the synagogue, but His teaching was different. He had authority. That authority applied not just to what He said, but what He did. Not only could He cast out demons and heal people, but He was able to do it by simply saying the word. Jesus had authority, or the right and ability to give orders and make things happen.

A king or president has authority over their country to make laws and command citizens to do what he pleases. Parents and teachers have authority to tell their kids what they will do and discipline their kids if they do not obey. The same way that a parents have authority over their children, teachers have it over their class, and kings or presidents over their countries, Jesus has authority over the whole world. He can command sicknesses and demons to leave people and has authority over the Word of God. How is it possible that this man Jesus can have such authority? It is because Jesus is more than just a man. While He certainly is a man, Jesus is also the Son of God. That gives Him His authority.

LOOK (Continued)

It is important to notice something when Jesus cast out the demons in this story. Both demons said something true about Jesus. He is the Holy One of God (vs. 34) and the Christ, the Son of God (vs. 41). Jesus did not rebuke them for lying. According to vs. 41, He rebuked them *because* they knew He was the Christ. Jesus did not want His authority, and by extension His identity, to be verified by the words of demons. His miracles and teachings should be the proof of who He is: God's Son. As we go through the book of Luke, we will see Jesus' authority in action through a number of miracles and teachings. This authority will point to the fact that Jesus is the Son of God.

The stories we read today show that Jesus has authority in His teaching. He has authority over demons and authority over diseases. One thing we have not yet discussed is that if Jesus has authority over the whole world, He also has authority over you and me. To some, that might seem scary. The world is filled with examples and stories of people who have used authority in wicked ways. However, in today's story, we see that Jesus' authority is used to do good, to cast out demons, heal, and preach the kingdom of God. Jesus has authority over you and me, so we have an obligation to follow Him and obey His Word. However, this is not a burden but a blessing, for Jesus says His yoke is easy and burden is light (Matthew 11:30), and 1 John 5:3 tells us that His commandments are not burdensome. It is our responsibility to submit to that authority, and He will take care of us.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize Luke 4:32.

Review the events of this week's passage and have the students explain how each story demonstrates Jesus' authority.

Pray: Praise the Lord for His mighty authority. Ask Him for strength to obey His Word and submit to that authority.

Parent Question: How does Luke 4:31-44 (today's passage) show that Jesus is the Son of God?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Luke 4:31-44 by David Guzik

C. Further ministry in Galilee.

1. (31-37) Casting out an unclean spirit.

Then He went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and was teaching them on the Sabbaths. And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority. Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice, 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!" 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. 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." And the report about Him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

a. **There was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon:** The terms **unclean spirit**, *evil spirit*, and **demon** all seem to be the same, referring to malevolent powers of darkness who are the enemies of God and man.

b. **What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth?** It is ironic that the demons know who Jesus is, but the chosen people-people in His own city, didn't appreciate who Jesus was.

c. **But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!"** The manner of Jesus' dealings with the demon in this passage is a clear demonstration of His power and authority over the spirit realm.

2. (38-39) Peter's mother-in-law is healed of a fever.

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. So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them.

a. **Simon's wife's mother:** This proves beyond any doubt that Peter was married. According to the present day Roman Catholic standards for the priesthood, Peter was not qualified to be a priest-much less the first "Pope"!

i. Clement of Alexandria, an early Christian writer, said that Peter's wife helped him in ministry by meeting the needs of other women.

b. **He stood over her and rebuked the fever:** In this situation, Jesus saw the fever itself as something to be rebuked. Perhaps He perceived that there was some spiritual dynamic behind this seemingly natural illness.

c. **And it left her:** This was not only the healing of a disease, but the immediate granting of strength. One doesn't normally go from a high fever to serving others.

3. (40-41) Jesus heals many who are sick and demon possessed.

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. 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.

a. **When the sun was setting:** This marked the start of a new day, the day after the Sabbath ([Luke 4:31](#)). The people had to wait until the Sabbath was over until they came to Jesus. Religious tradition kept them from receiving from God at the moment.

b. **Did not allow them to speak:** Jesus restrained the demons from speaking about Him because He did not want their testimony to be relied upon.

c. Was demon possession more common in Jesus' day than our own? Actually, there are fewer than ten specific individuals delivered from demon possession, plus two general occasions where it describes people being delivered. This doesn't seem abnormally high over a period of three years, among three million people.

4. (42-44) Jesus continues His preaching ministry in Galilee.

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; 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." And He was preaching in the synagogues of Galilee.

a. **Went into a deserted place:** Jesus knew the value of solitude with God the Father. He spent most of His time ministering among the people, but needed such times in a **deserted place**.

b. **I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also:** He taught about the **kingdom of God**, in the sense that He announced the presence of the King and in correcting people's misconceptions about the kingdom.

c. **For this purpose I have been sent:** Jesus saw His main ministry, at this point, to be **preaching the kingdom**. Miracles were a part, but not the main focus of His ministry.