



STORIES OF LIFE!

The Gospel of Luke

A Story of Authority

Luke 4:31-44

Message #13 of 50 – S788

Sermon given on April 22, 2018



Sunday Morning Service

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A Story of Authority

Luke 4:31-44

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 4**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- The story of your life is a story of your relationship to authority
- Authority is power – and that is why some people crave it – but power can be very corrupting – not everyone can handle it
- Some people are stressed out or afraid to be in authority
- Today, we are going to look at a day in the life of Jesus
- We will look at how He handled authority, and hopefully learn how we might interact with authority better
- Let's pray and then look at those things
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **A Story of Authority**
- So far, in chapter four, right after Jesus was baptized, was led out by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil
- And then He began His public ministry, which included teaching and working miracles of all sorts
- After about a year, He goes home to Nazareth, where, after teaching, the people try to throw Him off a cliff because they know Him as Jesus, the son of Joseph the carpenter, and He is claiming to be the Messiah, the Christ, the Savior
- Today we are going to see five aspects of the authority of Christ
- The first one is not in our text, but is from last week
- **Luke 4:14**
- First aspect of Christ's authority – **Holy Spirit empowered**
- As the human Son of Mary, Jesus, the carpenter from Nazareth had no authority
- It was only after the Holy Spirit descended upon Him do we see Jesus exercising authority

- The same Holy Spirit who empowered Jesus dwells in every believer
- Every believer is in a place of authority simply because the Holy Spirit is present in your life
- But to exercise that authority, we must be empowered by the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit is God, and He does as the Father wills, but we can either open ourselves up to the empowering of the Holy Spirit or close ourselves off from it
- One of the keys to that is found in the second aspect of Christ's authority – **Scripture-based**
- **Luke 4:31-32**
- The word 'astonished' has the idea of shocked
- They had never heard anyone teach like this – parallel **Mark 1:21-22**
Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.
- The scribes and other religious teachers typically taught by quoting what other teachers and rabbis said, who quoted other rabbis and teachers
- Jesus quoted Scripture - wilderness temptation – after resurrection
Luke 24:27
And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.
- Most of the people Jesus taught did not know Him as the Messiah
- And so, He did not base His authority on the fact that He was God
- He based it upon God's revealed Word – which, of course, pointed to Him
- In fact, Jesus based His whole life on the revealed Word of God
- The more we know God and His Word and our life lines up with God's revealed Word, the more capacity we have to be empowered by the Holy Spirit
- The modern church seems to be somewhat powerless – they have departed from the Word and they are despising the work of the Holy Spirit
- If you want to experience more authority or spiritual power in your life – devote yourself to God's Word and yield yourself to the Holy Spirit

- The third aspect of Christ's authority – **Authority over the Spiritual**
- **Luke 4:33-37**
- Humans have a perverse fascination with occultism, including the demonic
- Almost all cultures recognize the reality of evil forces in the world
- I am not going to do an exhaustive study on demons – they are not the object of this text
- Demons are real – they are created beings, angels, who rebelled with Satan thousands of years ago
- They are immortal, utterly evil, and unredeemable
- They operate in the unseen spiritual world around us, but are able to act in the physical world to do the evil that Satan tells them to do
- Notice where this demon-possessed man is – in the synagogue – it our equivalent to church
- Listening to Jesus' sermon until he just can't stand it anymore
- Notice also that this demon knows exactly who Jesus is
- Jesus simply tells this demonic being to be quiet and come out, and it does, without hesitation
- Turn to **Colossians 2**
- The people watching know what is going on and are blown away
- There are Christians who are terrified by the thought of Satan and demons – shouldn't be
- **Colossians 2:13-15**
- Satan is an immensely powerful creature, and so are his demons but at the cross, Jesus tore out his fangs
- Based on the leading and empowering of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God we have authority over the spiritual realm also
- Jesus was exercising His spiritual authority
- He told the people of Nazareth that He had come to 'set at liberty those who are oppressed'
- Turn back to **Luke 4**
- Many of the struggles, trials, temptations of our life have a spiritual element that needs to be addressed spiritually **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**
For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself

against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...

- The spiritual realm is real, Jesus had authority over demons
- In Christ, we also have authority in the spiritual realm as the Holy Spirit leads and empowers us and based on the revealed Word of God
- Evil, unclean spirits are still causing trouble in the world
- But not all bad things in the world are because of Satan and demons
- Fourth aspect of Christ's authority – **Authority over the Physical World**

- **Luke 4:38-39**

- We know Simon better as Peter – the most outspoken of Christ's disciples
- Doctor Luke says Peter's mother-in-law has a high fever
- There is no sense that this is demonically influenced – she is just sick
- When Adam and Eve sinned, God cursed them and all humanity to suffer the consequences of rebelling against God's perfect will
- God also cursed the ground or earth
- That is the source of earthquakes, volcanoes, floods, wildfires, hurricanes, and the other so-called natural disasters
- It is also the source of all disease and illness
- People get sick and die because we live in a fallen world that is waiting for Jesus to come back and redeem it **Romans 8:22-23**

For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

- With a word, Jesus healed her – Matthew and Mark say He touched her, lifted her up – unusual for that culture
- So complete was her healing that she got up and served them the Sabbath meal
- She was not the only person healed that day

- **Luke 4:40-41**

- 'various diseases' – you name, people had it, Jesus healed it
- Cancer, tumors, leprosy, cripples, blind, deaf, heart disease, spinal problems, brain problems, blood problems – touched and healed every one of them
- And more demon-possessed people were set free

- Jesus healed countless people
- If the Holy Spirit is inside of us, why don't we see more people being healed – I can think of a dozen people that I have begged God to heal
- My mom, Judy Ortiz, just to name a couple
- It is not an issue of faith – I believe God heals – I have experienced healing personally – share Indonesia experience if there is time
- Matthew records why Jesus did it **Matthew 8:16-17**

When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: “He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.”

- Jesus did it because the Scriptures said He would – Isaiah 53:4
- Not only that, it was evidence of the Messiah – John the Baptist sent messengers – Are you the Messiah? **Matthew 11:4-6**

Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.”

- The miracles were evidence that Jesus was the Messiah
- We don't need miracles – we have the New Testament accounts of His miracles
- I believe God still works miracles, and I still pray in faith that He wills it to be so, but I don't need them to believe
- Too often we view illness, disease or suffering from the wrong side of eternity
- My mom has been suffering for years, and hopefully she will get some relief next week – it is hard to watch, knowing that humanly I am helpless, and God has not answered my prayers yet
- The Apostle Paul had a different perspective **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**
Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.
- God still heals, but not everyone, and not always – mysterious
- All the people Jesus healed, even from death, eventually got sick and died
- There is something really important that I don't want you to miss

- Notice in verse 38 ‘they made request of Him concerning her’ and verse 40 ‘all who had any sick...brought them to Him’
- We can’t heal anyone – that is God’s work – but we can bring them to Jesus – intercessory prayer – the Word – invitation to church – call to faith – bring them to Jesus
- One final aspect of Christ’s authority – **Authority over Self**
- **Luke 4:42-44**
- The people of Capernaum love Jesus – want Him to hang around
- Jesus was on a mission – He had been sent to preach the kingdom of God, and then die on the cross to make a way for people to get into it
- Life would have been easier for Jesus if He had stayed in Capernaum
- But Jesus didn’t come to take it easy, or to be popular – He was completely yielded to the authority of God over His will to do the will of the Father
- In the leading and power of the Holy Spirit, based on the revealed Word of God, Jesus had authority over the spiritual and physical realms because He was under the authority of Almighty God
- It is unlikely that any of us will ever walk on water or raise the dead, but all of us have infinitely more power available to us than we are currently exercising, myself included
- It begins by learning to walk in the power and leading of the Holy Spirit and growing in knowledge of God and His Word
- The power of God is in you – it is time to unleash it into the world
- **Pray!**