

# A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

## An Expository Study of **The Gospel According to Luke** **Chapter 4- Luke 4:31-37** 46- Jesus' Authority Over Demons- Part 1

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September 13, 2009

### **Luke 4:31-37**

What happened when Lucifer fell and took a third of all the angels with him? What happened when Jesus said in **Luke 10:18**:

**I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.**

The History Channel and many of the small, little, so-called Messianic groups that have popped up all around this area in the last ten years teach that late in the third century- the Christian Church *invented* the concept of the devil and demons to scare people into going to Church, and that, in reality, there is no such thing as either the devil or demons. Jews have long taught that. But what does the Bible say?

We hear teachings by popular television personalities about odd sounding concepts like "generational curses", and there is a multitude of books in print which teach us just how to cast demons out and pray against what they call strongholds and engage ourselves in what they call "spiritual warfare". So called "Deliverance Ministries" that specialize in specific diseases and the casting out of specific demons are popping up all over the country, and they are growing in popularity and practice- even in mainline Churches- so this is a big deal and we need to know what God's Word says about it.

There is a proliferation of movies and television shows, books, tapes, and seminars where the occult and witchcraft and wizardry are openly taught and practice and promoted- even to children. Video games abound where the main characters with names like Diablo and Abaddon are engaged by children and young people. Television programs where they search for ghosts and movies with vampires as not

only the main characters but with vampires actually being the hero of the movie are routinely turned out by Hollywood. Why such an increase in demons and devils and fallen angels? Is this just harmless fantasy or is there something real that is going on as we approach the return of Jesus Christ to the earth?

Let me say to you that much of what we have all been taught about demons is not true and it is wrong and unbiblical. So we have a need today of knowing what the infallible Word of the living God says about fallen angels and how they operate in the earth.

So, I ask you this morning- *"What do you believe about demons?"* Demonology is the study of all that the Word of God teaches about fallen angels or demons or devils or unclean spirits, and just what they can and cannot do, and who they can and cannot possess, and what is the range and limitations of their power. And so, Lord willing, over the next several weeks- we will explore just what the Bible teaches about this very important subject.

Jesus deal with a demon possessed man in our text this morning in **Luke**, and how Jesus dealt with this unclean spirit gives us volumes of information that we need so that we may formulate a true and Biblical understanding of what demons are and what demons can do.

A few years ago- Peter Jennings of ABC did a special on "The Search for Jesus?" You might remember that. Well, needless to say- ABC News didn't find Him. In fact, not only didn't they find Jesus- there is no way that they could have ever found Jesus because the people of ABC don't believe the only true record of Jesus- and that's the Bible.

After that "special" aired- the Sun Herald called me and they asked me what I thought about it. And I told them that I thought the program was pure blasphemy. And I said, "The reason I say that is because **Galatians 1:7** says if anyone proclaims any other Jesus other than the true Jesus of Scripture- let him be anathema- which means let him be eternally damned without any hope of ever being saved.

For anyone, for any reason, to misrepresent who Jesus is- is wrong and it is a form of blasphemy because Jesus is God, and to misrepresent God in any way is blasphemous. Nobody has the right to portray Jesus in any other way other than the one single true way that Scripture portrays Jesus.

So that ABC program was orchestrated by satan to simply confuse people about the reality of Who Jesus Christ really is, and what Jesus Christ actually did and is doing right now. There's only one place where you can find the real Jesus and that's on the pages of Scripture. The Revelation of Jesus comes in Scripture- in particular in the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. And the Story of Jesus is told there in its fullness. So if you reject the Bible as being the inspired inerrant record- then you cannot and you will not ever find Jesus.

ABC didn't find Him back then and nobody else will ever find the true Jesus until they look in the Bible and believe every word written about Him.

But we have gathered together this morning- we have assembled ourselves today, we have all left the comfort of our own individual homes and we have valued the Lord Christ enough to put aside our own individual plans and to set aside our own individual opinions to gather together to learn what Scripture says about this Man named Jesus Who loved and died and rose again.

So we're no longer searching for the real Jesus- we know exactly where He is- Jesus is found in all His Glory and in all His Wonder and in all His transcendence on the pages of Scripture.

Now I never expected anything different from that attempt by ABC to find Jesus- so I'm not angry at them. I don't ever expect unregenerate people to ever know the true Christ. So I don't expect the ABC network or CNN or Fox News or any other secular outlet to ever find the real Jesus.

I don't expect people who deny the Bible to find Jesus. How could they? But I will tell you this- I *do* expect God's people to find Jesus and to know Him. I do expect those who promote themselves as great teachers and great prophets and great apostles to know Jesus and to serve Him. And what really breaks my heart is how many Christians today are ignorant of the unimaginable richness of the Person of Jesus Christ.

I hear all kinds of people tell me about some new movie or some new video game or some sports star or some great politician and I hear such excitement in their voice as they talk about something that doesn't matter and that isn't eternal and that cannot rescue anybody from sin, and it saddens me that these people have nothing to say about Jesus.

When is the last time you heard anybody talk about how they are in awe of Jesus, or how thinking about Jesus makes them stand in amazement? How long has it been since you heard anyone talk in an excited and breathless voice as they describe the infinite beauty and the unimaginable Glory and the breathtaking Power of the Lord Jesus Christ? I tell you it breaks my heart.

You come here week after week and you hear me exposit the Gospel of Luke. Some of you brave souls even come back on Sunday night and hear me exposit the Epistle to the Romans. Next month- we will have been in Romans for 8 years. And I know I have a reputation for going slowly through the Word of God and I can improve on that- I really can. There's only one way I can improve on that- and that would be to go even slower.

That's true because the faster I go- the more I just hit the high points and move on- the less you're going to know about the majesty of Jesus. So please trust me when I tell you that slower is better. I can't deal with the issues of Scripture and I cannot unfold for you the Glories of the Owner and Creator of the Universe and I can't expound on the Wonders of Jesus Christ unless I take what's there and examine it and take it apart and put it back together.

So faster is not better. Slower is better so that you can taste and see that the Lord is good, and so that you can actually chew on deep and profound Divine Truth, and so you can digest it and then move on to the next part. To creep along through God's precious Word is to learn the fullness of the riches of the Glory of Jesus Christ- and by doing that- you will actually know the real Jesus.

You've seen Him in the Scriptures and you're going to keep seeing Him week after week after week until His majesty begins to unfold in your mind and then your heart through the pages of the Holy Bible- which is the only source for knowing the real Jesus.

I was doing a radio interview a few years ago and they had some people calling in and asking questions and one man called in and said, *"Well, I've been a Christian a long time and what I would like to say to all those people who are searching for Jesus is that the way you really find Jesus is in your personal experience. You must feel Jesus and I found Him through my own personal experience."* And another Pastor who was on the program said, *"Yes, that's very good."* And I said, *"No, that's not very good at all- because you can't invent Jesus out of your*

*own personal experience. You find Jesus revealed in an absolute historical record on the pages of Holy Scripture. You can experience His Salvation personally, you can embrace His Love and Forgiveness personally- but you cannot define Who Jesus is by your own personal experience. That is just not true."*

And it saddens me that people have cheapened and degraded Jesus into being nothing more than a personal feeling or an emotional high, and that is why I love you all so much. You know, you're a very, very rare breed of people here at The Covenant of Peace Church- because you have sat under detailed exposition of Scripture over the years and that has caused you to know Who Jesus really is.

And we have to understand that most Christian people never sit under correct Bible teaching and it shows- doesn't it? It shows in what they believe and it shows in how they live their lives. Godly living springs forth from a correct understanding of Scripture. Walking and praying and speaking and singing "in the Spirit" is not a mystical or an esoteric experience - it is nothing more nor less than walking and talking and living and singing and praying in joyful and humble submission to the authority of the Word of God- that's all it is.

And you simply cannot and you will not live in joyful and humble submission to the Word of God if you don't know the Word of God. And so the nuances and the depth of the understanding of the Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture paramount- and for the most part that true revelation of Scripture is never exposed to the overwhelming majority of God's people in the modern Church. They don't know the great Scriptural Truths about Jesus, and the consequence of that ignorance is that the full Glory and Majesty and Wonder and Awe of Jesus Christ is never theirs. And that is a tragedy. And in our time the pulpits of the American Church are not moving in the direction of expositional preaching, in fact- they are moving in the opposite direction- toward jokes and motorcycle riding clubs and pottery classes and seminars on how to balance your check book and how to lose weight.

I am counseled by the great Church growth gurus nearly every week that I cannot possibly expect people to sit and listen to a deep and thorough exposition of God's Word in the 21st Century. That if I really want my Church to grow- I need to forget about Bible Studies and scale back the prayer meetings and begin to lighten up and allow more fun and games into the Church.

I tell you that the men who stand in the pulpits of America's Churches today are moving away from clearly expositing the Holy Scriptures to God's people- which in my view is nothing more than some kind of a prostitution of the call to ministry. They are not calling men to repentance, they are not preaching with passion on conviction about sin and about how devastating sin is and how dangerous it is.

I've been reading a lot about Martin Luther and John Calvin lately, and Martin Luther said, *"There's only one thing to do if you're a man of God- just one thing to do, and that's preach the Word of God."* And John Calvin said, *"The Christian Ministry is only one thing, it's proclaiming the Word of God. It is proclaiming God's Word through our preaching, and teaching and counseling, and song- but Christian Ministry is nothing less, and nothing more than proclaiming the Word of God."*

And yet people sit in Churches all over the country today and the great Wonders and the Glories of the Person of Jesus Christ and the Majesty of God are never explained to them in any kind of depth. Much of modern ministry today focuses on the here and now, and centers on human needs and human feelings rather than the Glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ- and that grieves me greatly. And I cry out to God about this- that God would visit His Church and cause us to repent and return to the teaching of the Word of God- not for its own sake but for the fact that that is the only way God's people will ever come to know the fullness of the Glory of God in Jesus Christ.

You can't know it any other way. You can't just expect people to wander around in a fog looking for Jesus. The only way that anyone knows Jesus in the fullness of His Person is by knowing in depth the Revelation of Him on the pages of Scripture.

And I have to tell you that I am very grieved by this. This is a great pain in my heart, and it's a nagging sorrow that preachers today do not exposit the Word of God with any kind of profundity, or any kind of depth or transcendence, and, therefore, God's people are impoverished because they do not see the Glories and the Majesty of God and the Lord Jesus Christ- and they are destroyed by this glaring and this obscene lack of knowledge. The devil is chewing them up and spitting them out- all because they do not know the Glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

You can be thankful, dear friends, that the Word of God is opened to you here. And I don't take the credit for that and I won't. Because I was just an average guy stumbling and bumbling my way through an athletic career when somehow the Lord picked me up and dusted me off and turned me into a Bible expositor- certainly not because of any will of my own, but because of His.

And this whole thing is a far greater joy to me than it is to you because I learn so much more than you do through all my preparation. And if I told you everything that I learn about Jesus every week- you would be here a lot longer than you already are.

Now in the text for today- Dr. Luke continues to introduce us to Jesus Christ. This whole book, as you will remember, is The Story of Jesus Christ- just like the other three Gospels. And Luke is introducing us to the real Jesus. The search is over, folks, it's over. Here He is. Luke is introducing us to the real Messiah, God in flesh, the Savior of the world- the Son of God. And starting in chapter 4 verse 31, and going on through chapter 5, Luke directs us to the Power of Jesus Christ.

Up until this point he has been discussing the Person of Jesus Christ- that He was announced by the angel, and His forerunner was announced, and that He was born of a virgin named Mary with no earthly father, and that He was in the line of David, and that He was the true Messiah announced to be the Lamb of God by John the Baptist, and publicly affirmed by the Father Who said He was well-pleased with His Son, and the Spirit of God came down on Jesus in full view of many witnesses.

So, all that Luke has said up to this point, including Jesus' conflict with Satan in the wilderness, affirms Him as the Messiah. It deals with His Person as Messiah, as Son of God, and as the Savior of the world.

So, starting now in **Luke 4:31**, we begin to look at Jesus' Power. Even the occasion in Nazareth which we just finished last week- in verses 22 to 30, focused on the Person of Jesus as the Messiah. He was the Anointed One; He was the One on Whom the Spirit of the Lord had come to preach the Gospel. So everything up to this point has been His Person.

So beginning today- we're going to look at His Power and we're going to see His Power over all the religious teachers- and we're going to

see His great Authority over all other religious teaching. And we're going to see His Power over demons. And we're going to see His Power over disease. And we're going to see His Power over nature. All of this Power is going to unfold before us in the fourth and fifth chapters of **Luke** and you will find a parallel section dealing with much of the same material in **Mark 1:21-39**.

Now the central point of this section is that Jesus has Power over everyone and everything. He is the Messiah by virtue of angelic announcement. He is the Messiah by virtue of virgin birth. He is the Messiah by virtue of Abrahamic and Davidic descent. He is the Messiah by virtue of the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. He is the Messiah by virtue of the proclamation of the forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist. He is the Messiah by virtue of His defeat of Satan. All of those things affirm that Jesus is the Messiah.

And He is the Messiah because the Father announced Him to be the Messiah, because the Spirit came upon Him to be the Messiah, and because of He being anointed- came to preach the Gospel to the poor, the captives, the blind, and the downtrodden. All of that identifies Jesus as being the Messiah.

Now we will begin to see His Power. We have met the real Jesus as to His Person- and now we will meet the real Jesus as to His Power.

And Contrary to those comments by the pseudo-scholars on television- Jesus was no mere Man Who was confused about His identity. He was not a mere human with a limited sphere of influence. He was God the Son possessing Absolute Power and Absolute Authority over everyone and everything in all of God's Creation. And that is what Luke will show us in this section.

And the first thing that Luke deals with in this section is Jesus' absolute Power and Authority over demons. So let's look again at this fascinating account- beginning at **Luke 4:31**:

**31 And He came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and He was teaching them on the Sabbath;**

**32 and they were amazed at His teaching, for His message was with authority.**

**33 In the synagogue there was a man possessed by the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice,**



34 “Let us alone! What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”

35 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “**Be quiet and come out of him!**” And when the demon had thrown him down in the midst *of the people*, he came out of him without doing him any harm.

36 And amazement came upon them all, and they *began* talking with one another saying, “What is this message? For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits and they come out.”

37 And the report about Him was spreading into every locality in the surrounding district.

Now in this passage- Luke mentions Jesus' Authority in verse 32, and he mentions Jesus' Authority and Power in verse 36. Now we already know that Jesus has engaged in a conflict with satan. The beginning of chapter 4, verses 1 to 13, gives us the account of that. And we remember that Jesus went out into the wilderness, He was sent there by the Holy Spirit to engage in conflict with satan. And satan put three temptations in front of Jesus over which Jesus totally triumphed in every case. And it was there in the wilderness that Jesus established His power over Satan. He established the fact that satan had nothing "in" Him, as the Scripture says, and that He was well able to withstand all of satan's assaults Personally.

So in the first section of chapter 4- we learned that Jesus could overpower satan for Himself. But there's another question that remains, and that question is:

*"Could Jesus overpower Satan for others?"*

Now remember, if Jesus is to save sinners- He's going to have to *forcefully* rip them out of the kingdom of darkness, right? If Jesus is going to save sinners- He's going to have to *violently* steal them away from satan- whose children they are by nature.

In **John 8:44**- Jesus said that the unregenerate and unconverted sinners of the world are the children of Satan. In **Ephesians 2**, the Apostle Paul teaches that lost people are literally the children of disobedience- or in other words- unsaved people are the sons of

disobedience who are under the power of the prince of the air. They are under the control of the god of this world.

In **2Corinthians 4**- the Apostle goes on to teach that the god of this world has blinded the minds of lost people lest the glorious Light of the Gospel should shine unto them. And in **Colossians 1:13**- Paul teaches that all lost sinners are in the domain of darkness.

Over in **1John 5:19** the Apostle John teaches that the entire unregenerate world lies in wickedness, and in **The Acts 26:18**- Luke says that Paul preached the Gospel in order to turn people from darkness to light and from the dominion of satan to the Kingdom of God.

So all sinners are under the complete dominion of satan by virtue of their human conception in sin and iniquity. People do not sin to become sinners- no, the Bible teaches that people sin because they are already sinners in the hearts. All men are either slaves to satan in sin or slaves of Jesus Christ by righteousness.

And the Bible says that we become slaves to satan in sin by reason of our natural birth, and we become slaves of Jesus by righteousness only by reason of our spiritual birth.

So it is the spirit of satan- that deceiving, lying, demonic fallen angel satan and all his demons, that literally indwell and that literally pervade the kingdom of darkness- which is the world of all unregenerate people.

And so, if Jesus is going to deliver anyone from their spiritual poverty, if He's going to deliver anyone from their spiritual bondage, if Jesus is going to deliver anybody from their spiritual blindness and their spiritual oppression, if He's going to set the captives free, if He's going to smash down, as **2Corinthians 10** describes it- all the fortifications of the deceiver, if He's going to destroy the fortresses of satan- the lying ideologies, the false religions, the heresies and apostasy and false doctrines- if Jesus is going to do that and set the captives free and bring them to Salvation- then by default- Jesus must be able to conquer demons- not only for Himself- but for us, too.

We must understand that there is not one single lost person who is not in the total dominion of satan- no matter how moral or how sweet or how kind that person may be- he is completely and utterly under the absolute dominion of satan as long as he is lost.

The Bible teaches that the whole world lies in the lap of the evil one. The whole world is in the dominion of darkness- the darkness of satan. Now the word "dominion" means: *under the sovereignty of*.

So in the words of **Romans 6**- all unsaved people are slaves to unrighteousness in that dominion of darkness. So sinners are in darkness. Sinners are under the frightening and certain condemnation of God Almighty for their repeated wickedness. They are prisoners in satan's kingdom. If they are to be liberated at all- then the Messiah must have the Power and the Authority to shatter the guardians of that kingdom- the demons- the fallen angels- along with their ruler- satan.

Now people cannot ever be saved until and unless they admit and believe that they are truly lost and undone without God, and without any hope at all of ever correcting the situation through their own power or actions- and this utter desperation drives them to beg for God's Mercy and Forgiveness.

As long as there is even one sliver of hope remaining in any lost person that they would only do this one thing or pray this one prayer or engage in this one sacrament or do this one good deed- they could be saved- as long as any lost person has any hope that something he can do for himself will save him- he can never be saved.

But once people admit that they are the poor, once they admit that they are the prisoners who need to be spiritually liberated from the bondage of sin, once they admit that they are blind- who need spiritual sight and that they are oppressed- and need to be freed from that oppression of sin- once they came to that place- and turned fully to Christ- will Jesus save them? Can Jesus save them? And this is what Luke wants us to know.

The question is can this Jesus really and truly deliver them from the domain of darkness? Can He actually do that? And the reason that this is such an important question is because the bondage of sin is profound and deep and all encompassing. It affects every single area of life.

**Hebrews 2:14** says that lost unsaved people are all their lifetime subject to nothing but spiritual bondage to Satan. So if Jesus really is the Savior of sinners, if He is truly the Messiah, if He is the real Deliverer, if Jesus is going to make the spiritually bankrupt to be spiritually rich, if He's going to deliver the prisoners of Satan's kingdom and make them free, if He's going to give them sight and take away the

heavy burden of their sin- then He has to be able to conquer Satan- not only for Himself- but also on their behalf.

You see, it's one thing that Jesus could defeat Satan in His Own temptation- but the question before us now is can this Jesus conquer the kingdom of darkness on behalf of others? Jesus must demonstrate His power on behalf of sinners who are the helpless subjects of Satan's angels if we are to trust that He is the real Messiah.

Now, one key verse in all of this is **1John 3:8**. So please turn with me to **1John 3:8** and read what the Apostle John taught about this.

**The one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.**

In other words- John taught that those who are slaves to sin are of the devil or are the children of satan or in other words- those who continue to be helpless in their sin and in whom sin is continually dominant in their lives- those people are not saved.

Now why is that? Because of what John says next-

**... for the devil has sinned from the beginning**

Now this means that whoever is continually dominated by sin and who cannot achieve victory over his sin is the offspring of satan because the devil sinned from the very beginning- or in other words- satan sinned from before time because it is in his nature to sin. Sin originated from satan- not Adam. Now look at what John says next:

**The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.**

For what purpose did the Son of God appear that He might destroy the works of the devil? What is the purpose that the Son of God appeared? Because the devil sinned from the beginning. Because he sinned- Adam sinned, and because Adam sinned we are born in sin and we are shapen in iniquity- and so we sin and we are slaves to sin by reason of the fact that satan sinned from the very beginning.

So if somebody asks you, "*Why did Jesus Christ come into the world?*"- you need to tell them what John says here. Jesus came into the world for the purpose of completely destroying the works of the

devil. And when they ask you, *"What does that mean?"* You can say, *"Well, the devil holds all sinners captive in the prison of his kingdom, and in order to save sinners- Jesus has to destroy all of those devilish efforts."*

So the Messiah was brought into the world as God incarnate- for the express purpose of destroying the works of the devil. And He has to do that in order to set the captives free. And it's as if the imagery again comes back of **2Corinthians 10**- it's as if we view all the lost people as being in a fortress, or a great prison. And the prison is fortified and it is heavily guarded by the demons of Satan. And in order to go in and free the captives- Jesus has to be able to overpower the guards. And all the guards of the kingdom of darkness are the hosts- the fallen angels- that we know as demons. And both the devil and all his demons know this.

So when the Messiah comes, the battle is on- the war is on. And the question must be asked then, *"Can Jesus actually do this? Can Jesus deliver lost sinners out of the kingdom of darkness by overpowering the forces of Satan?"* And Luke goes into great detail in this passage and answers that question with a resounding, *"Yes!"*

Now I believe that I need to add a footnote here. This is not to say that everybody is demon possessed. I'm going to talk about demon possession in great detail next Sunday, Lord willing, and I'll get into all that it is, and I'll tell you some things that I'm pretty sure you've never heard before, and I'll explain to you what the Bible actually says that demon possession is.

So this is not to say that every sinner or every unregenerate person- including all of us before we were converted- are demon possessed- they're not. But even though most lost and sinful people are not demon possessed- we are all in bondage to the demonic *system*.

Sin places us in the domain of darkness where we are under the influences of satan and his demons. So every sinner is under satan's complete dominion and is by nature a slave to sin. Every lost soul is under satan's influence.

And since lost sinners can't do anything that is righteous- we do not possess the ability to act in faith in any capacity through own strength and by our own will power or human volition. Therefore, everything that lost people do is sin. Every act and every thought and every desire that lost people have is sin because the Bible says in **Romans 14:23** that:

**... whatever is not from faith is sin.**

... so even the noble and what we would call "humanly good things" that lost people do are all done without any desire at all to bring Glory to God for those deeds and thoughts, and, therefore- they are not glorifying to God, and, therefore, they are sin.

But being sinful and influenced by the domination of sin and even influenced by the dominion of demons is different from being *possessed* by a demon.

Demon possession is an extreme form of bondage that is very rare and we'll get into all that next time. Now demon possession is not rare in the Gospels- but if you read the Old Testament- you will not find one single incident of any person being demon-possessed in the entire record of the Old Testament.

And if you study the Epistles starting with the book of Romans and going all through the New Testament- excluding the Gospels- you will not find one individual who was demon possessed. Only in five Books- the four Gospels and The Book of the Acts of the Apostles do we find any incident of demon possession. So it is a very rare and uncommon occurrence.

Now that is not to say it didn't happen at all because there is no record of it occurring in the Old Testament and no record in the Epistles- but there is an explosion of demon-possession in the Gospels- attacking the Ministry of Jesus and the Apostles- and there is a reason for that. So suffice it to say that much of what you have probably been taught about demons and demonic activity and demon possession is probably wrong and is not Biblical at all. So hold on to your hat- we are in for quite a ride.

Now while it is true that every sinner is *not* possessed by demons- it *is* true that every sinner is in the *domain* of demonic darkness and has to be Sovereignly liberated by the Messiah and the Savior.

The sinner is graciously given the ability to come to the recognition that he is the poor, the prisoner, the blind, and the oppressed, and he is then supernaturally empowered to turn to the Savior and say..."Please save me and deliver me from Satan, and deliver me from sin and deliver me from bondage and deliver me from death and deliver me from hell!"

So the real question is..."Can Jesus do that? Can He really do that for us? If Jesus is the true Messiah- then He has to demonstrate that He can. And this passage here in Luke shows us that Jesus can absolutely do that. And by the way- this demon possessed man doesn't even say anything. We don't even see this man repent. We don't even know whether he believed. The demon spoke out of him and in verse 35 Jesus rebuked the demon and said, "**Be quiet and come out of him!**"

And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst- the Bible says that he came out of him without doing him any harm. Now regardless of where the man was, in terms of his own understanding of his sinfulness or faith in Christ- we don't have any indication that those things were a part of his thinking. And it didn't matter where he was- because Jesus can command the demons at will at any time, and they had to do immediately what He tells them to do. That's the point of this passage that Luke wants us to understand. If Jesus is the real genuine Messiah- then He has to have all power over all the kingdom of darkness or He won't be able to deliver us, as **Colossians 1:13** says, from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of His dear Son. Jesus has to be able to utterly shatter the power of the demons, and this passage shows us that He can- regardless of what the man thought or didn't think- and regardless of whether the man was even saved or not.

Now the terrible need of the human race is this- all of the lost people on the face of the earth are in complete bondage to Satan. And they are in total bondage to demons, and they are under demonic influence every second of every day.

That demonic influence is the spirit that works in the children of disobedience- and all lost people are completely alienated from the life that is in God- and they are loyal and faithful subjects of Satan and so **1John 3:8** says that Jesus left the Divine realm of Glory and came into this sin cursed world to shatter and utterly destroy all of the works of the devil and to set sinners free.

Now what we need to understand is that the devil has been holding all of humanity in a death grip- ever since Genesis 3. And now some 4,000 years later- the evil demonic spirits knew why Jesus had come. ABC News should have interviewed some of these demons on the search for Jesus- and they would have gotten the right answer. Look at **Luke 4:34** again with me:

**“Let us alone! What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”**

**Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God.**

There was not one single of those pseudo-scholars in that ABC Special about The Search for Jesus who could say that. But here the demons know exactly who Jesus is because they've known Jesus since way before they were cast out of Heaven. All demons were at one time-holy angels. And according to **The Revelation 12**- one third of them were somehow deceived by Lucifer and God cast them out of Heaven like a lightning bolt.

So that's why I tell you that I am praying that all those liberal theologians and Rick Warren and Joel Osteen and Joyce Meyer that they will rise up in faith and somehow believe as strongly as demons believe- because the Bible says that demons believe so much in Jesus- that they tremble. Because demons know Who Jesus is. They know what Fred Price doesn't know- that Jesus was absolutely perfectly sinless, and demons know the Bible better than Kenneth Copeland because they realize that the Bible is the authoritative Word of the living God- not that little voice that speaks to them.

Demons believe the Bible. They know that God's Word is true. And unlike some Christian radio station managers in our area- the demons know that every single Word of Scripture is fully inspired - not just the red letter words of Jesus.

And demons also know what the Bible says is going to happen at the end. All fallen angels fully understand that they will spend all of eternity in a lake of fire burning forever.

That's why when Jesus arrives on the earth- you see this explosion of demon possession taking place because the demons really understand that the battle is on in full force. And so all hell literally breaks loose and all through the Gospels and even into the book of **The Acts**- there's this explosion of demon possession as the fallen angels try their best to hold on to the sinners that Jesus has come to save.

One of the characteristics of demons that the Bible teaches is that they don't like to speak because that blows their cover. They operate in subtleties and they operate clandestinely. But during the life of Jesus-



all that changes. And as Jesus steps into the scene- the Power of God in Him is so great that the demons can't restrain themselves and they blow their own cover.

In this text- this demon screams out in the middle of Jesus' sermon, and it's apparent to everybody that a demon is in this man. But normally you find demon possession very rare and you find the demons speaking even rarer. But here in the Glorious Ministry of Jesus- demon possession explodes and the clandestine subtle ways in which demons generally operate gives way to an open confrontation with Jesus Christ as the battle for the souls of sinners heats up.

So the evil spirits, I would say, through all of biblical history, unleash their greatest and most visible audible assault at the time of Jesus and on the sinners that are hearing Jesus preach. And this passage here in Luke is an illustration of that reality.

Now as we look at this illustration- this is one of those definitive passages. And as I have already told you- **James 2:19** says that demons believe in Jesus so much that they tremble in fear- and this is a central theme about demonology that everybody needs to know.

There is not one single true believer who ever needs to ever in any way be afraid of demons. Never. No genuinely saved person ever needs to be afraid of demons. But while that is true- all demons live in abject and constant terror. Because in spite of all their wickedness- all demons are Biblical fundamentalists and all demons are pre-millennialists. Demons know for a fact that Jesus is going to come back and bind them for a thousand years and then throw them in the lake of fire. They can read **The Book of the Revelation** just like we can. In fact, demons know more about the last days than most believers do.

Demons know and they fully believe what God's Word teaches about the last days and they're in constant fear because they also don't know the day nor the hour when the Son of Man is going to come and render their judgment. So the demons believe, and because they believe the truth, they are in a constant state of trembling. They're afraid. So you don't have any reason as a believer to ever be afraid of demons.

The demons believe and as a result of their belief- they tremble in fear. We believe, too, and the result of our belief is that we have absolutely no fear. Because we believe the Gospel unto salvation and they believe the Gospel under their own damnation.

And the Gospel tells us that our eternity is forever settled and it is secure, and that gives us cause to rejoice with joy, unspeakable and full of glory. But the demons know the very opposite. They know for them there is no Salvation- only eternal damnation in the lake of fire. They don't know exactly when that's going to come- but they know it's inevitable and they live in constant terror because of that.

Now what makes demons tremble? What scares demons? That's a good sermon title, isn't it? Four things I found in this text that tells us what scares demons:

- 1) The Preaching of the Son
- 2) The Purpose of the Son
- 3) The Purity of the Son
- 4) The Power of the Son

So first of all- demons live in abject terror of the Son of God; His Preaching and His Purpose and His Purity and His Power. Those four things- and I can't get through them all today- but let's go into the first one this morning. Demons fear the Preaching of the Son of God.

So first of all- Jesus was a preacher. Above everything else- Jesus was a preacher in terms of His Ministry. Jesus spoke the Word of God and that's all He ever spoke. Unlike me or any other preacher on earth- Jesus never spoke anything but the Word of God. Every single time Jesus opened His mouth- the Divine Truth of God came out. In **John 8:26 Jesus said:**

**... the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world.**

So in Luke 4:15- Jesus began teaching in their synagogues. We saw the experience of His teaching and preaching in Nazareth. And down in verse 43 of chapter 4 He said to them,

**I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose.**

Everywhere Jesus went- He was preaching, preaching, preaching, and always the same content- He was preaching the Word of God. He was expositing the Holy Scriptures. In **Luke 24:27**- Jesus preaches His

last sermon- beginning with Moses and the Prophets, and He explained to those men the things concerning Himself that is found throughout all the Scriptures.

So from the beginning to the end of His ministry- Jesus preached and preached and preached and preached, and He always preached the Word of God- nothing else. That's all He ever preached and that's all any preacher should ever preach.

And that's exactly what Jesus was doing in verse 31. Let's look at **Luke 4:31** again:

**And He came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and He was teaching them on the Sabbath;**

Now Capernaum is here identified as a city of Galilee. But if you wanted to go over there today and find Capernaum- you couldn't do it- because it's destroyed- Capernaum was judged by God. The Lord of Life had made His home in Capernaum for a year and a half during His Galilean ministry and He preached the Word of God there many times- including this occasion in the synagogue- but the people of Capernaum rejected Jesus and they rejected His Word and God judged them and wiped that city out and it doesn't exist today.

All that's left is a little monastery and some ruins of an old synagogue that you can visit and a place that is believed to have been built on top of the house that Peter once lived in. But the city is completely obliterated from the face of the earth.

But at that time- Capernaum was the main agriculture and fishing center of the entire Galilean area- which is the northern part of the land of Israel.

And you will also notice that the Bible always says that Jesus went "down" to Capernaum- and there's a reason for saying "down" because Galilee is an area that has depths and heights of some interesting proportions. There are hills and mountains in the northern part of Galilee, and then there is the Jordan Valley that runs down the middle of the Galilee, surrounded by mountains. The city of Nazareth is about 1300 feet *above* sea level, whereas Capernaum and the Sea of Galilee is 686 feet *below* sea level, so it was a 2,000 foot drop to go the twenty miles from Nazareth "down" to Capernaum. And Luke

identified Capernaum as a city of Galilee for the benefit of the readers who might not know the geography of Israel.

So Jesus went down 2,000 feet from Nazareth where they tried to kill Him when He exposed them as the poor and the prisoners and the blind and the oppressed, and they hated the fact that He identified them as sinners. And they didn't want to hear it. And so they tried to kill Him by throwing Him off a cliff. Remember He miraculously got away and He left Nazareth, went down the 2,000 foot walk to Capernaum. And it was on a Sabbath in Capernaum that Jesus was teaching them.

Now it was typical to teach the Scriptures on the Sabbath. That's what the Jews did on the Sabbath- they went to the synagogues and they taught and learned the Scriptures.

And Jesus preached Repentance and Forgiveness and Salvation. He preached the gospel. Verse 18 says that He came to preach the Gospel. And 32 says that they were amazed at His teaching.

As I said- there is much teaching today about demons, much said about so-called generational curses, much taught about how to cast out demons and how to pray away evil spirits and how to be delivered from demonic forces- but I say to you that much of what is being taught today is wrong, and much of what is being taught today about demons is not Biblical, and so, Lord willing, we will take some time over the next several weeks and explore this important issue of demonology- the study of demons and fallen angels and explore just what the Bible actually teaches about this- but in closing- this is the thought that I want to leave with you.

If you are lost this morning, if you are unsaved and unredeemed- you should be very, very frightened about demons because you have absolutely no protection from them at all. There is a legion of hundreds of millions of fallen angels that the Bible says are in the earth today, and that are under the earth today that are soon going to be released, and they are going to trouble you like you cannot even imagine. And there is only one safe place for you- and that is resting in the Arms of Jesus. So I beg those of you who are lost this morning- to run to Jesus this morning for Mercy, run to Jesus for Forgiveness, and run to Jesus for Safety from what demons are going to bring upon the earth.

But for those of you who are saved, those of you who are fully trusting in the finished Work of Jesus Christ in His Death, Burial, and

Resurrection- I say to you that you are safe because the Bible says that you are sealed unto the day of redemption, and not one single genuinely saved individual can ever be possessed by devils- you have only one Spirit living inside you and that is the Holy Spirit and He will keep you safe from all demonic forces.

And that should make you joyful, and that should make you humble, and that should make you willing to follow Jesus and love Jesus and serve Jesus with all your heart.

Let's come and pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.