

30 A.D.

THE JESUS STORY

Facing The Powers Of Hell

Luke 4:31-37

INTRODUCTION

- ▶ 1 John 3:8 - *The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.*

PRINCIPLE #1: If you are trying to do God's business, you will take heat from hell.

THE SCENE (Luke 4:31-33a)

- ▶ ① Capernaum
- ▶ ② Synagogue

PRINCIPLE #2: Be strategic in ministry... serve where it will matter.

THE CONTEXT – PUBLIC TEACHING

(Luke 4:31,32; cf. Matthew 7:28,29)

THE INTERRUPTION (Luke 4:33-34)

[SIDEBAR ON DEMONIC ACTIVITY]

- ▶ Angels, good & evil, really exist
- ▶ Evil angels = fallen angels / evil spirits / unclean spirits / demons
- ▶ Before the creation of the world (and mankind), God created a fixed number of angelic beings (Mark 12:25; Luke 20:36)
- ▶ One of God's guardian angels (Lucifer) rebelled (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-17)
- ▶ Lucifer (Satan) led 1/3 of the angels to rebel with him against God (Job 4:18; Revelation 12:4)
- ▶ Satan & his angels were defeated & cast out of heaven to earth (Revelation 12:7-10,12)
- ▶ Satan led the first human beings astray through lies, deception & seductive temptations (Genesis 3:1-7)
- ▶ When Adam & Eve sinned against God, they fell from their state of innocence (Genesis 3:7-9)
- ▶ They were separated from God & cast out of the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:22-24)

- ▶ The entire earth & human race fell under the effects of the curse (Romans 5:12; 8:19-21)
- ▶ Jesus came to destroy the devil's work & take back mankind's dominion over the earth (1 John 3:8)
- ▶ Satan & all demonic forces were defeated by Christ at the cross (Colossians 2:15)
- ▶ Satan & all demonic forces are already doomed & will be cast into the Lake of Fire (Matthew 25:41; Rev. 20:10)
- ▶ There are times when God still permits evil spirits to invade humanity
- ▶ We are commanded to submit to God & resist all demonic activity (Ephesians 6:10-18; James 4:7)
- ▶ Only in Christ can human beings have victory over demonic forces (Revelation 12:11)

① The demon knew Jesus' true identity

② The demon was terrified of Jesus

③ The demon was looking for mercy (cf. Luke 8:31; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6)

JESUS' RESPONSE (Luke 4:35; cf. Luke 4:41)

PRINCIPLE #3: Jesus Christ has complete authority over the powers of hell.

THE AUDIENCE'S RESPONSE (Luke 4:36)

YOUR RESPONSE

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Facing the Powers of Hell - Luke 4:31-37

Sermons can be viewed online at creeksideeg.com/sermon

Questions are based on the NIV translation of the Bible

PRAYER

Begin your time together by praising God that Jesus has authority over any evil presence or influence in your life.

MY STORY

1. Who was your favorite school teacher as you were growing up? Why?

DIGGING DEEPER

2. Sunday's message focused on the power and authority Jesus has over Satan and demons. Was there any point, principle or insight that stood out to you? Why?
3. How has your view of the devil or demons changed over the years?

Read Luke 4:31-37, and answer the following questions

4. Did you notice the double reference to authority? What is authority, and what in Jesus' message (or presentation) conveyed to those listening that He had authority?
5. Verse 33 states that a demon-possessed person was in the synagogue. Does this surprise you? Explain. Do you think a demon-possessed person could show up in church? If so, what might the person do, and how could the church respond if the person started disrupting?
6. Verses 33-34 state that the demon-possessed person cried out at the top of his voice and said several things to Jesus. What do each of the following statements spoken by the demon to Jesus insinuate about the spiritual conflict between heaven and hell and the fate of the devil and his demons?
"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."

DIGGING EVEN DEEPER

7. What do the following verses tell us about how the devil operates and/or how we can be victorious against the forces of evil?

How the Devil Operates | Things a person can do to be victorious

John 8:44

1 Peter 5:8,9

James 4:7,8

1 John 4:4

Ephesians 6:10-18

APPLICATION

8. What area(s) do you think the enemy uses in your life to try and gain access? (Examples: TV, social media/entertainment, food/drink, finances, public opinion, unforgiveness, unhealthy relationships, intimacy, pride, fear, etc.)
9. Describe your own attitude toward the powers of darkness. In your estimation is your attitude a healthy one, or does it need to change? If so, how? Explain.

TAKING IT HOME

10. Memorize a verse(s) from question 7 above. After memorizing, meditate (think deeply) on the verse(s). How can this exercise help you in the spiritual battle?

PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for the needs of your group and ask God to help you stand strong against evil influences.