

Luke 4:31-44 – Jesus at Capernaum

Jesus had been rejected by his own people, in the town he had grown in – Nazareth. They had even tried to kill him. Now Jesus came to another town in Galilee, called Capernaum. This was by the lake of Galilee.

1. Power in his teaching (v31-32)

Jesus did not give up. He went into the synagogue to preach. He knew what his Father had sent him for (v43), and he carried in obedience. He was determined to shine the light. Are you determined to receive it? The people were astonished at his teaching. He taught them as someone who knew the truth, and who brought it into their hearts, with power. He was the Messiah, and he shone light into darkness. If we are seekers after God, we must be learners; we must listen to truth, and obey it. Have you felt the power of the truth? Have you understood about Jesus, and come to him?

2. Power over demons (v33-37, 41)

There was a man in the synagogue with a demon, who could control him and speak through him. He was quiet until confronted by the truth. Today the lies loved by demons control many people's minds, even in places of worship (like the demon was in the synagogue). When Jesus brought the truth, the demon knew that his power was at an end. He screamed out in terror and hatred. He only wanted to be left alone, but Jesus had come to throw him out. Jesus did so with just a word. In this way he showed again that he was the Messiah. The people were amazed at Jesus' power; but being amazed is not enough; we need to repent and believe. By his death on the cross Jesus destroyed Satan's power over men – have you been set free yet?

3. Power over sickness (v38-40)

They went back to Simon Peter's house, which he shared with his wife, his wife's mother and his brother (Andrew). The Roman Catholic church teaches that God's ministers cannot marry – yet Peter, an apostle, did. The Roman Catholic church has made many mistakes and is not the “one true church” as it claims; it has often seriously corrupted God's word. Peter's mother-in-law was very sick, but Jesus healed her again with only a word. Immediately she was strong again and got up to serve him. Jesus again showed his true power. Like this woman, those who have been saved from eternal death by Jesus should get up and serve him. All who hear the gospel should obey Jesus – who are we to try to resist the one who has power over all things? Great crowds came to be healed, and Jesus healed them all. He never ran out of power to heal any sickness, nor did he ever lack mercy and pity on those who were suffering. This shows his power to save; he is always able to save even the worst of sinners from their sins. The next day Jesus went out to find a deserted place. His aim was not to be famous or popular, but to please his Father. This meant he had to go and continue preaching. The signs he did were not the main thing; it was the truth he taught that opens the door for us to believe and be saved.