



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Demons Cast Out

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In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke, a gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Luke, in chapter four, describes a hostile witness, tempter and adversary, the devil and his demons. After Jesus had spent forty days and nights in the wilderness and not having food during that time and under unsuccessful continual temptations or testing by the devil, Jesus returned to His hometown, Nazareth in Galilee, to begin His earthly ministry. As was His custom, Jesus was in the synagogue on the Sabbath, reading scripture and teaching. Jesus shared that no prophet is welcome in his hometown and likewise His hometown rejected Jesus and attempted to kill Him. Jesus escaped and traveled 20 miles northwest to Capernaum, on the Sea of Galilee.

“And He came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and He was teaching them on the Sabbath; and they were amazed at His teaching, for His message was with authority. In the synagogue there was a man possessed by the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, “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!” 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. 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.” And the report about Him was spreading into every locality in the surrounding district.” (Luke 4: 31-37 NASB)

Jesus taught. Jesus, having escaped a plot to murder Him in His hometown of Nazareth for preaching the truth, traveled 20 miles north to Capernaum, a city of Galilee and on the Sea of Galilee. Capernaum became an unofficial headquarters for His ministry. As was His custom on the Sabbath He was in the synagogue teaching. All attending were amazed at His teachings because He taught with authority. All were amazed, including a man possessed by a spirit of an unclean demon.

Demons knew Jesus. In the first several chapters of his letter, Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. From credible witnesses including: Zacharias, Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, Simeon, Anna, John the Baptist and the Ultimate Witness, God the Father. God the Father declaring from Heaven, *“You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.”* (3:22). Luke also shares that the devil understands the deity of Jesus as the Son of God (4:1-13). Luke now shares that spiritual demons (fallen angels) also understand that Jesus is, *“the Holy One of God!”*(4:34). These demons understood the power of Jesus and were fearful that He would destroy them (4:34).

Jesus rebukes the demon. With His authority and power, Jesus successfully calls the demons out of the man, causing amazement to all who witnessed the event (4:35). When Jesus rebukes or sharply reprimands anything, it or they obey.

Additional examples of Jesus authority and power through rebuking are the wind and the sea and the physical nature of the body.

“And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Hush, be still.” And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm.” (Mark 4:39)

“And standing over her, He rebuked the fever, and it left her; and she immediately got up and waited on them.” (Luke 4:39)

For Your Consideration:

- A believer's battle is not with other people but rather against dark forces and spiritual wickedness. Do you try to fight the battle on your own or are you strong in the Lord and rely on the strength of His might? (Eph 6: 10-20)
- Jesus, the Messiah, when confronted with testing, always responded with knowing, understanding, believing and declaring the promises and protection of God as found in the scriptures? Do you?
- Jesus is the Christ, the promised Messiah, Son of God and Holy One of God! What is Jesus to you?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44