



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Jesus Ministers in Galilee

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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. 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. Capernaum became Jesus' unofficial ministry headquarters. As was His custom, Jesus was in the synagogue on the Sabbath, reading scripture and teaching.

“Then He got up and left the synagogue, and entered Simon’s home. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Him to help her. And standing over her, He rebuked the fever, and it left her; and she immediately got up and waited on them. While the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and laying His hands on each one of them, He was healing them. Demons also were coming out of many, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But rebuking them, He would not allow them to speak, because they knew Him to be the Christ. When day came, Jesus left and went to a secluded place; and the crowds were searching for Him, and came to Him and tried to keep Him from going away from them. But He said to them, “I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose.” So He kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.”(Luke 38-44 NASB)

Peter’s mother-in-law healed. Jesus, after spending time in the synagogue, immediately traveled to Simon (Peter) and Andrew’s house along with James and John, son’s of Zebedee (Lk 4:38, Mk 1:29-31). Luke, being a physician, likely understood the severity and grave nature of the illness describe to him and shares that Simon’s mother-in-law had a ‘high’ fever. They, likely Peter, Peter’s wife and Andrew, ask Jesus to ‘help’ her. Jesus stood over her and rebuked, called out, or severely reprimanded the fever. Luke describes that the fever not only left her but also, *“immediately (she) got up and waited on them.”* Luke implies that there was no normal recovery time from this serious high fever. She was totally healed and back to normal immediately.

The first healing (4:31-37) on the Sabbath was public and a spiritual healing (removing of demon spirits). The second healing on the Sabbath was private and a physical healing. Again, when Jesus rebukes or sharply reprimands anything or anyone they obey.

“While the sun was setting.” To heal on the Sabbath was a violation of rabbinical tradition. Yet people had witnessed what healing Jesus could and did do earlier in the Sabbath day in the synagogue. They tried to stay away until the Sabbath was over, sunset on Saturday. However, *“While the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to Him;”* so as soon as they were free to travel they came to Jesus. Jesus touched them and they were healed. Jesus healed them physically and in many He drove away the demon. Those demons shouting, *“You are the Son of God!”* Jesus rebuked the demons not to speak because they knew Him to be the Christ. Jesus never encouraged the demon’s testimony.

At daybreak, Jesus went to a secluded place. Jesus likely spent much of the night healing those people who came to Him. As was His custom to be in the synagogue on the Sabbath, Jesus’ custom also drove Him to private early pray to the Father each day. Luke records that while the people found Him and wanted Him to stay, Jesus told them that His purpose was to preach the Kingdom of God to other communities. So Jesus traveled and preached in the synagogues of Judea.

While it was important to meet the physical need of people, Jesus placed a higher priority on prayer and preaching.

For Your Consideration:

- Jesus challenged man’s tradition with God’s truth. Have you matched your religious traditions with God’s truth found in the Bible?
- While it’s important to meet the physical need of people, like Jesus do you place a higher priority on prayer and preaching (sharing the Good News)?

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