

ULC Sermon Study Resource

The Gospel According to Luke // Jesus Ministers

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Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What's the weirdest food you have ever eaten?

Reading: Luke 4:31-44

Outline:

- I. Authority over the supernatural (v. 31-36)
 - a. Jesus teaches with authority, and he demands acceptance of what He proclaims.
 - b. Jesus provides validity to his claims of authority here when he rebukes a demon.
Q: What do the demon's words reveal about who Jesus is?
- II. Authority over the natural (v. 38-40)
 - a. Jesus's words have authority over the natural world as well. When Jesus speaks, the natural world responds to its creator.
 - b. When Jesus heals and performs miracles, it is an extension of His kingdom on Earth.
Q: How does this passage demonstrate the concept of the performative word?
- III. Authority to reign (v. 42-43)
 - a. Jesus came here to preach the gospel of the kingdom of God to everyone.
 - b. Through Jesus's authority, he has delivered us from the forces of evil in this world, and he continues to protect us.
Q: Why does Jesus tell the people that he cannot stay there with them?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) Have you felt this crisis of authority that so many people experience today? How do you respond?
- 2) How do you feel about the reality that there are spiritual forces of evil actively at work in our world?
- 3) How does Jesus's authority over the supernatural and natural bring you peace? How does this make you feel?
- 4) Have you ever heard of or experienced an extension of the heavenly kingdom here on Earth, such as a miraculous healing?
- 5) In what ways can you declare the authority of Jesus every day?

Suggestions for further study:

- Matthew 28:18 **Q: How important is the concept of authority to Jesus's ministry?**
- Philippians 2:10 **Q: How far does Jesus's authority extend?**
- Luke 9:1-2 **Q: To whom did Jesus give authority here to continue His work?**

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, we thank you that in your authority you don't seek to dominate over us, but you love us and you gave of yourself for us. By going to the cross and rising again you brought us into your kingdom, and God we praise you for that. We pray that we would look to you as the authority in our lives. We pray that we would battle against the evil in our hearts, and that we would seek to extend your healing presence into this world. In your name we pray, Amen.