



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 19 "His Authority" By Pastor Jody May

Luke 4:31-37 ESV

Jesus Heals a Man with an Unclean Demon

³¹ And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, ³² and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. ³³ And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴ "Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." ³⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. ³⁶ And they were all amazed and said to one another, "What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!" ³⁷ And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

**HEART or CONFLICT &
CONVICITON**

HEAD or CONFIDENCE:

HANDS or CONDUCT:

Aim of the Trilogy:

Luke 4:42-44ESV

⁴² And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, ⁴³ but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God **to the other towns as well**; for I was sent for this purpose." ⁴⁴ And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

The point of this trilogy, as Luke is writing to the ancient church, is ask, "**Are you ready to take a trip with Jesus to discover Salvation/Life/Freedom; to see what His Gospel can do?**" To have certainty according to what you were taught (1:4). This invite, in this trilogy from Luke, goes to a certain group of people.

This invite, while it is for all, is specifically given to those that find that they have been living in a **religious world; the church life**. So as the HS makes this message come alive we may feel an emotional affinity with these people and that is because Jesus declared when He quoted Isaiah 61 last week; "He brings good news to the poor and enslaved." He brought that message to church folk... We see in this trilogy 3 different groups of people that were targeted: 1st from last



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 19 "His Authority" By Pastor Jody May

week, those that thought they knew Him, **2nd this week, those who knew not His power (for freedom),** **3rd**, those that wanted Him for what He can do.

Now this brings us to our current installment, pt. 2 of this trilogy, "His Authority".

We see that this is the **first miracle that Luke records** is the casting out of a demon. Let's review and see why this is significant for these church people, what it teaches us about Christ, and how that affects us now.

1. The Authority of Jesus is found in His Words (Gospel)...

³¹ And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, ³² and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority.

They were astonished at His authority, the way He said His Words... This doesn't mean that Jesus yelled out His sermon like a 'Drill Sergeant' but that Jesus spoke without trying to prove why His view on scriptures were right. Jesus **didn't ascribe** to Rabbis or Pharisees, He spoke as He did last week, 'here is God's Word and this is what it means.' **To speak with authority means Jesus believed He did not need anyone else to give weight to what He was saying for He believed He spoke for God as if He was God.** Which He was...

At Christmas time many people like to read the Apostle John's account of the Incarnation, of his view of who Jesus was as He came into the world. I believe it will give you a glimpse into why Jesus spoke with this confident authority, so let's take a moment and read that this morning.

John 1

The Word Became Flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has **not overcome** it.



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 19 "His Authority" By Pastor Jody May

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

¹⁴ And the **Word** became **flesh and dwelt among us**, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus talked with authority for **He IS AUTHORITY/The Word of God!**

- All things made through Him, that includes the angels.
- Darkness did not, it cannot, nor will it ever overcome this Word!
- This Word put on flesh and He glorified Himself for He lived by His authority alone, He spoke with it, people were amazed by it, demons were terrified of it, diseases were eradicated by it, and He allowed no one to take His life but gave it up on the cross Himself by His last words, "it is finished".

Jesus' authority is found in His Words and there is no other power I know that can bring dead men to life, physically and spiritually.

Maybe today my family, you are looking at 2018 in the rearview mirror and you wanted it to be different. You wanted peace, you wanted contentment, you wanted to be loved, you wanted less anxiety, you wanted less fear, well there is only one way that I know how to get it and it is found in the Words of Christ, His Gospel.

Maybe for 2019 this is the year that you need to pick up the Bible a little more, commit to a steady daily diet of it, memorize it, and then pray it back to Jesus and ask Him to make it real to you and see if 2019 doesn't change for the better. The power of change is there for you to have but it is **not found within yourself**, but it is found in discovering the authority of Jesus as He tells you about Him first, and then yourself second, through the reading of God's Word which is His Word. That is if you're careful to heed point 2...

2. The Authority of Jesus cannot be ignored...

³³ And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴ "Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." ³⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 19 "His Authority" By Pastor Jody May

silent and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm.

Isn't it funny how the people from His home town were too familiar with Him and could not see Him for who He was but here the demon hears Jesus' Words and immediately knows he's in trouble!? As I told you it is a scary and dangerous thing to think you have got this Christianity thing figured out. I think possibly Luke is showing us what really is happening behind the scenes when people have a hard time listening and obeying the message of Jesus even in the church, that is they are under spiritual oppression from the world.

Along with that I also want us to see that when Jesus begins to speak, **things happen because He cannot be ignored. People being oppressed by darkness will be freed.** Notice that Jesus didn't start His sermon out asking for demon possessed people to come forward, no He started preaching the Gospel, empowered by the HS and it captured the attention of this man. The demon possessed man wasn't rolling on the floor till after Jesus spoke and what He spoke was the gospel. You see it is not us that should be afraid, no the powers of darkness are terrified when the Gospel is being delivered:

James 2:19 ESV

¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

Just in passing you know the Bible doesn't really talk about people being possessed by fallen angels, not counting Genesis 6, until the NT. It was only when Jesus started His ministry walking from town to town that these people started coming out into the light. He could not be ignored, His message called the darkness to attention and they reacted with fear. We can learn a lot about respecting Jesus even from His enemies. When they saw Him they thought the end had come and they were addressing Jesus believing it was time for judgment. **Let me give you something else to be thankful for this Christmas, the work of the devil and His forces can be done with in your life if you are ready to take Him as your king.**

1 John 3:8 ESV

⁸ Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 19 "His Authority" By Pastor Jody May

These demonic entities were even found in the synagogues worshipping with God's people, they influence even the local church and btw that has not changed in centuries. If this is **how the enemy works by infiltrating our places of worship**, the places where we think we are safe, how much more important is it for us to not just read the Bible for ourselves, and check for clarification from other like-minded believers, **BUT when convicted by it to obey it, not ignore it!**

Maybe for you in 2018 you have spent too much time:

- Listening to politics and it has made you a little afraid of the future, it might be time to turn some of that off and discuss a future that you share with the people in this room.
- Reading too much web md and you think you have a plethora of diseases that will lead to your doom. Whatever it is please understand that Jesus has authority over that as well and if you are sick it is because He allows it and **wants to use it for His glory and your joy.**
- Watching visual entertainment and now you think that the way to be happy is to experience what life is like on a screen. You live with the thoughts that, "I should have what they have." Instead of living by what the Gospel tells us and that is **we already own it all according to Ephesians 1.**

Here's a reminder today; all of the systems of the world are under the influence of the enemy and the enemy infiltrates the church whenever He gets a chance. **Could it be we are becoming too accustomed to what the world says we need and less concerned about who Jesus says He is?**

John 10:10 ESV

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

The thief is the devil and the horde of demons that follow Him, their plan is to get you to believe that God has given you a cruddy way to live and has delivered you over to a life that leads only to death proven by our complaining attitudes. **But the truth is that Jesus teaches quite simply you can either die for the devil or live abundantly for me, now which will it be?**



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 19 "His Authority" By Pastor Jody May

Will you believe that your infirmities and 'lack of' were given to glorify Christ? Could it be, as Job shows, that the enemy was possibly responsible for your suffering. Don't give the devil the satisfaction and glorify Him by being upset with life, kick him in the face and believe that God can use all our circumstances for the good for those HE loves.

Listen to Jesus Words, He has come to give you life abundantly, don't ignore Him today.

3. The Authority of Jesus demands to be shared.

³⁶ And they were all amazed and said to one another, "What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!" ³⁷ And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

When Jesus speaks into our lives the word goes out and notice it didn't go far just to those that these people would have done life with. Everyday relationships are provided for the proclamation of the Gospel.

How do we show our neighbors that we have found a man that can save us for He is God? We listen to His authority in His Words and we obey it and then when someone asks why we are obedient we tell them. You tell them you have finally found something worth living for that is greater than your desires to be happy, His name is Jesus.

How do we show the world that earthly problems are allowed to glorify God rather than being consumed with worry over them? We stop ignoring the good news of Jesus and listen and believe He has come to give us abundant life so that the world sees people not being stopped by shortcomings but empowered by them.

You see we as a church have nothing to share with the world until we act on the Gospel in faith and live it out in front of others, because that shows the authority of Jesus' Word in our lives.

Maybe this Christmas we don't dwell on what we don't have but we dwell on what we have received already in the flesh, the Word of God, JESUS, that came with authority to set His people free!



**The Gospel According to Luke
Wk. 19 "His Authority"
By Pastor Jody May**

PRAYER

COMMUNION

BLESSING

- **Go in the name of the Father that has given all authority over this world to His Son...**
- **Go in the name of the Son whom by the power of His Word can set you free...**
- **Go in the Power of the HS which makes us pay attention to Jesus' Word, freeing us from sin, giving us the desire to share the good news with others...**