

Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany – 2021
Saturday, 1/29 at 4:00 | Sunday, 1/30 at 9:00



HEART-PIERCING Message
MESSAGE-PROVING Miracles

Repent & Believe

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The Ancient Synagogue in Capernaum

Text: Luke 4:31-44 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: In last week's sermon, Jesus visited His hometown of Nazareth. When He declared Himself to be the Messiah, *they did not believe Him and tried to murder Him*. Since it was not His time to die, *He miraculously walked right through the angry mob!*

In today's sermon, Jesus is in Capernaum where He now lives. As we proceed, notice how He taught with authority; *then He proved His teaching to be reliable with His MANY miracles!*

1. **Teaching:** ³¹ **And [Jesus] came down [from Nazareth] to Capernaum [30 miles], a city of Galilee, and He was teaching them on the Sabbath;** ³² **and they were amazed at His teaching, for His message was with authority.**



- a. Setting: From the map *Jesus went up (NE)*, but it says *He came down* – because Capernaum is by the Sea of Galilee, *which is 600 feet below sea level*.
- b. Authority: Jesus' message had *ability, might, and power*; Lenski wrote: "The verb is very strong; the people were struck as by a blow.... [He also noted:] The 'word' of Jesus reached the conscience and the heart with unerring directness and made [crystal] clear the will of God and Jesus' own great mission" (261-262).

2. **Miracles**:

- a. Demon cast out: **³³ In the synagogue there was a man possessed by the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴ "Let us alone! [Get out!] What business do we [I and the other demons] have with [You], Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us [to ruin us by removing our control over humans]? I know who You are-- the Holy One of God!" ³⁵ 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.** // Angels are powerful creatures created by God; *demons are fallen angels!*
 - i. Silence: The demon said, "**You are the Holy One of God!**" But Jesus silenced him! *We believe in Jesus – because of the Spirit working through the word, not because of the testimony of a fallen angel!*
 - ii. Obedience: Humans are powerless against demons, but the demon obeyed Jesus *because He is the Son of God in human flesh!*

Reaction: **³⁶ 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.”

³⁷ And the report about Him was spreading into every locality in the surrounding district [*in all of Galilee*].

Amazement – “an emotion in which awe [*respect*] and fear are mingled” (Friberg, BW).

Authority and Power – The crowd saw that Jesus had **the right** and **the ability** to cast out the demon.

Every Locality – What Jesus did was so extraordinary that the news spread to everyone in Galilee!

b. Peter’s MIL Healed: ³⁸ Then [Jesus] 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 [Jesus] to help her. ³⁹ And standing over her, He rebuked the fever, and it left her; and she immediately got up and waited on them.

i. Simon’s MIL: Based on Matthew 16:15-18, the RCC says that Simon Peter was the first pope, *but their interpretation is wrong!* Furthermore, Peter was married, yet in 1139, *the RCC approved a rule forbidding priests to marry* – violating 1 Cor. Ch. 7. (*Please see both readings and listen to the sermon.*)

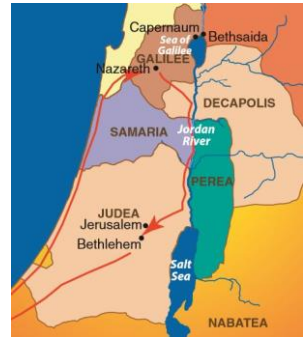
ii. Miraculous Healing and Proof: When Jesus sharply scolded the high fever (like His calming of the wind and the waves – Luke 8:24), *immediately it left AND she was serving!* When people are well and not serving – like many in America today, *something is wrong!*

c. Many Miracles: ⁴⁰ While the sun was setting [*that is, the Sabbath rest was ending*], all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to [Jesus]; and laying His hands on each one of them [*one*

by one], He was healing them. ⁴¹ 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. //

- i. When the Sabbath ended: People were free to bring the ill and possessed to Jesus, **and He healed them!**
- ii. The demons knew who Jesus was: They knew about Him – like many today, *but they did not trust in Him!*

3. **Purpose**: ⁴² 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 [because they enjoyed His teaching and miracles]. ⁴³ But He said to them, “I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose.” ⁴⁴ So He kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea. // Jesus kept calling people to repent, trust in Him for eternal life, and obey Him as *the King of the kingdom of God!*



Conclusion:

- **Truth** – Jesus’ teaching pierces hearts!
- **Relevance** – Jesus’ miracles validate His teaching!
- **Inspiration** – The way to heaven for ALL SINNERS is open through Jesus! **Repent and believe!**

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, cause us to keep hungering and thirsting for God’s gift of salvation until we are finally in Your glorious presence forevermore!

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