

Cultivate Gospel of Luke Study
LESSON Nine

Read and meditate on Luke Chapter 4 this week
and prayerfully answer the following questions before Tuesday's class.

Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit...

Read Romans 8:28

"He who, through the grace of God, resists and overcomes temptation, is always *bettered* by it. This is one of the wonders of God's grace, that those very things which are designed for our utter ruin he makes the instruments of our greatest good. Thus, Satan is ever duped by his own proceeding, and caught in his own craft." -Clarke

If Jesus needed the Holy Spirit to accomplish God's will, then what does that say about us?

Charles Spurgeon – "Ah, dear brethren, if our Lord Jesus needed 'the power of the Spirit', how much more do you and I need it! We have no power of our own, but he was the Son of God. He was a divine Teacher, and yet, when he went to his work, it was 'in the power of the Spirit.' Tarry, brother, till you have that power; it is of no use for you to go without it."

Is there a time when you have tried to do things in your own strength rather than relying on God's power to help you accomplish those things?

Read Luke 4:14-21

"And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day."

Jesus made it His custom to go to church. To share in worship and the Word of God with others. Of all the people throughout the world, throughout all time, He was the one with the least "need" to go to church. What excuses do we use to not go to church regularly?

1. Find verses in scripture that reference the importance of meeting with other believers.

There are no accidents or coincidences with the Lord. This passage of Scripture in Isaiah was the passage that was meant to be read in the Synagogue that day.

Jesus was reading about Himself in verses 18,19 which is a prophesy from Isaiah 61:1,2.

18“THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME,
BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO BRING GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR.
HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO CAPTIVES,
AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND,
TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED,
19TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.”

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,” Who is speaking in this verse? _____

2. Why was He anointed? List the five reasons in this passage.

“Thankfully, Jesus didn’t come to only *preach* deliverance or even to only *bring* deliverance. Jesus came to *be* deliverance for us. “Christ was the great enemy of bonds. He was the lover and the light of liberty.” -Morrison

3. Why didn’t Jesus quote the whole passage from Isaiah 61? Why do you think He stop where He did?

“Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

With these words Jesus answered two questions. Whom did Isaiah write of? _____

When will this come to pass? _____

Warren Wiersbe wrote, “The Jewish rabbis interpreted this passage to refer to the Messiah, and the people in the synagogue knew it. You can imagine how shocked they were when Jesus boldly said that it was written about Him and that He had come to usher in the “acceptable year of the Lord.”

4. In what ways did Jesus fulfil this prophesy?

Jesus points out that it is no surprise to Him that He would not be accepted in his hometown. He also shows that there have always been times when many may have needed a particular thing, but God is sovereign, and it is ultimately up to Him what He bestows on any person. Sometimes it is the one that we would least expect to get the miracle that receives it.

Charles Spurgeon – “This was as much as to say, ‘It is not because I lived here that I shall work miracles in this place. There were many widows round about Elijah, but he was not sent to one of them, he was ‘sent to a widow in Sarepta, a city of Sidon, a heathen woman in another country.’ Mark the sovereignty of God; he bestows his mercy where he wills, according to his declaration to Moses, ‘I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.’ We dare not ask God why he does this, ‘for he giveth not account of any of his matters.’ He acts wisely; but he acts according to the good pleasure of his own will.”

Read verses 24-30

He knew the people wanted to see miracles from Him. Instead, He reminds them of times that miracles were performed for Gentiles through Elijah and Elisha.

You can find the accounts of these miracles in 1Kings 17:17-24 and 2Kings Chapter 5. What stood out to you?

“28And all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things; 29and they got up and drove Him out of the city, and brought Him to the crest of the hill on which their city had been built, so that they could throw Him down from the cliff. 30But He passed through their midst and went on His way.”

5. Why do you think the people would be enraged by Jesus’ words?

Both examples that Jesus used in His teaching were of heathens, heathens from another country! This made them so angry that they wanted to drive Him out of the city and over a cliff!

David Guzik – “Pushing someone off a small cliff was often the first step in the process of stoning. Once the victim fell down, they were pelted with rocks until dead. Luke set the tone for the whole story of Jesus’ life here in Luke 4. Jesus came, sinless and doing nothing but good for all — and they wanted to kill Him. Passing through the midst of them: They wanted a miracle, and Jesus did an unexpected one right in front of them, escaping miraculously.”

Note in verse 30, *“But He passed through their midst and went on His way.”* Their intent was to kill Him that day, but He was sent for a purpose and God’s timing is set firmly in Heaven.

Websters 1828 dictionary defines sovereign as “Supreme; superior to all others; chief. God is the *sovereign* good of all who love and obey him.”

6. How does this truth of God being sovereign give you peace? Do you have an example to share?

Read verses 31-44

After being rejected by His hometown of Nazareth, Jesus moved on to Capernaum. He performed healings and cast out demons.

It is interesting to see how the people of Nazareth desperately wanted to see a miracle, but didn’t get one in the way they wanted or expected. Jesus then went on to work miracles throughout the rest of Galilee.

Verse 32 says, *“they were amazed at His teaching, because His message was delivered with authority.”*

Authority – Strong’s Greek 1849 Exousia - power of choice, liberty of doing as one pleases, leave or permission, physical and mental power, the ability or strength with which one is endowed, which he either possesses or exercises, the power of authority (influence) and of right (privilege), the power of rule or government (the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed), universally, authority over mankind, specifically, the power of judicial decisions, of authority to manage domestic affairs, metonymically, a thing subject to authority or rule, jurisdiction, one who possesses authority, a ruler.

What is your response when someone teaches in this (authoritative) way? In what ways does it affect how you consider what is being taught?

David Guzik – *“The authority of Jesus was not only evident as He taught, but also in His life. This would be demonstrated in the encounter with the demon-possessed man.”*

Read verses 33-37

How interesting that the demon possessing this man recognized that Jesus was *“The Holy One of God”* and was obedient to His command to, *“Be quiet and come out of him!”* *And when the demon had thrown him down in the midst of the people, it came out of him without doing him any harm.”* Yet, the people in Nazareth were filled with rage and tried to murder Him when he proclaimed to be the awaited Messiah. Demons, being spiritual beings, knew exactly who Jesus was.

7. What are some things that can get in the way of people recognizing and acknowledging Jesus’ position and authority?

Read Verses 38-41

From David Guzik's Commentary

“ He stood over her and rebuked the fever: In this situation, Jesus saw the fever itself as something to be rebuked. Perhaps He perceived that there was some spiritual dynamic behind this seemingly natural illness.

i. Barclay on the phrase, **sick with a high fever**, “every word is a medical word...the medical Greek for someone definitely laid up with an illness...Luke knew just how to describe this illness.”

After Jesus' healed Simon's mother-in-law, she got up and served them.

8. Do you have a strong desire to serve the Lord since he healed you from your sin? Is there an area God is calling you to serve? Are you being obedient to that calling?

Read 1Peter 4:10,11. What stands out to you in these verses?

It is interesting to see how the people of Nazareth desperately wanted to see a miracle, but didn't get one in the way they wanted or expected. Jesus then went on to work miracles throughout the rest of Galilee.

Read Verses 42-44

Write James 2:19

Charles Spurgeon – “There are many people, at the present day, who have this evil spirit in them and they also say, ‘Let us alone.’ They do not want to have their consciences disturbed; they would rather sleep on until they wake up in another world where their awaking will be too late to avail for their repentance.”

This fact is even more true today. We see this in our government, our schools, on our televisions, in our stores, and even in our churches.

Ecclesiastes 1: 9 – *“That which has been is that which will be, And that which has been done is that which will be done. There is nothing new under the sun.”*

“Jesus left and went to a secluded place.”

The Son of God was also human. He needed times of rest and refreshing with His Father.

9. Find other instances in Scripture where Jesus went off by Himself.

Read Mark 6:31

10. How important is it for you to “get away with Jesus”? Do you make it a priority to spend quiet time with Him?

Can you share a time that it really made an impact in your relationship with the Lord? Or do you have a warning to share with others about how your walk was negatively affected by ignoring Jesus’ request to spend time with you?

How do you manage distractions that threaten to pull you away from Jesus?

Thank you, Lord that you are a personal God who desires to spend time with every one of your children. Place a strong desire in each of us to meet alone with you, free from the distractions of this world. Grow us in a closer fellowship as we fix our attention on you.