

The Great Physician Luke 4:38-44

For the benefit of our guests, let's review what we've seen so far in the Gospel according to Luke.

- Luke is a Gentile doctor who did not know Jesus.
- He's a second or
- third generation Christian who interviewed witnesses to Jesus's ministry.
- He wrote his Gospel under the Holy Spirit's inspiration to another Gentile named Theophilus.
- Luke, who is an excellent historian, hopes to encourage Theophilus's faith in Jesus as well as his ability to explain and defend Christianity to his friends.
- This book, named after its author, is the first of two letters Luke wrote to Theophilus, the other being the book of Acts.

Thus far in Luke we've seen:

- 1 – The birth of Jesus
- 2 – the birth of John the Baptist
- 3 – The genealogy of Jesus
- 4 – The temptation of Jesus
- 5 – The gospel according to Jesus
- 6 – The beginning of Jesus's ministry

Jesus's first recorded miracle in Luke was the exorcism of a demon possessed man.

The result is that "*reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region*" (v 47).

Thus far,

1. Jesus came to be the Savior 4:14
2. Jesus claimed to be the Savior 4:21
3. In the rest of chapter four and into chapter five, Jesus demonstrated he is the Savior.

How did he do that? Luke immediately shows us four ways:

- a) He commands demons. 31-37
- b) He cures the sick. 38-40.
- c) He controls animals (fish) 5:1-11
- d) He cleanses a leper. 5:12-15

"The physical effects of the fall are universal and devastating. Birth is the first step toward death. Deformity, illness, weakness, injury, disease, and death form the universal biography of mankind. If He is to be the Savior of His people and take them to the perfections of eternal heaven, the Messiah must have the power to reverse all these natural effects of the fall. This passage provides both a specific illustration of and a general reference to Jesus's power over the natural realm." – John McArthur

First: Jesus and the Synagogue

This is the 2nd time Luke has mentioned Jesus's relationship to the synagogue.

- a) He was there each Saturday.
- b) He preached both times.
- c) He faced hostility both times.

Second: A Word about Peter

- a) Peter has yet to be officially called a disciple in Luke's gospel.
- b) By the time he wrote it, everyone knew Peter, so he didn't need to introduce him.
- c) He's called 'Simon' here because Jesus changed his name.
- d) Peter was still a member in good standing at the synagogue.
- e) He and his brother Andrew was originally from nearby Bethsaida, but Peter now operated a small fishing business in Capernaum with Andrew, James, and John (Mark 1:16-20).

Third: Peter's sick mother-in-law

- a) In 1 Cor 9:5, Paul tells us that Peter was married.

Matthew records the event like this - *And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever* (8:14).

Only the doctor notes that the fever was "high"/GR = *mega* (v 38).

b) Friends appealed to Jesus.

Matthew tells us that Jesus "*touched her hand*" (Matt 4:15).

Peter tells us that Jesus "*stood over her and rebuked the fever*" (39).

Rebuke = epitimao = rebuking demons or people

4:35 – "*But Jesus rebuked him...*" (same word)

Luke 8:24 - *And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves...*

In response, the fever "*left her...*" (39)

Fourth: Jesus's Healing Ministry

We don't know what Jesus and the disciples were doing after healing Simon's mother-in-law and the evening. Perhaps enjoying the Sabbath. But as the sun set, word about Jesus had gotten around town and the region and people began coming to him.

1. Jesus healed with touch and words 39 vs 40
2. He normally healed instantly. (See Mark 9:22-26)
3. He healed completely.
4. He healed anyone who came to him 40
5. He healed every disease 40

Matthew 4:23-24 - *And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴ So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them...*

6. Jesus continued to exorcise demons. 41

Just last week Luke introduced us to Jesus's first demon-exorcism Like this demon (v 34), that demon also knew him.

There are several reasons why Jesus may have forbidden the demons from speaking. This text says he forbade them from speaking. "*because they knew he was the Christ*"

(41). This makes it appear that Jesus doesn't want an early confrontation with the Pharisees.

Galatians 4:4 – But when the fulness of time had come, God sent forth his Son...

- a) Eph 1:4 tells us that God planned redemption before time began.
- b) God first promised the Messiah to people in the Garden in Gen 3:15.
- c) When God flooded the earth, he placed a rainbow in the sky to remind Noah that he remembered his promise (Gen 9:13-17).
- d) He reiterated the promise to Abraham in Gen 12:1-3, 4,000 years before Jesus.
- e) Throughout the OT, God echoed the promise to various people.
- f) There was 400 years of silence between the Old and New Testaments when people thought God forgot his promise.
- g) But Luke records the birth of Jesus as the fulfilment of God's long-awaited promise.
- h) Paul says in Gal 4:4 that it happened right on time.

Every life and each aspect of it is on a divine schedule -

Psalm 102:25-28 - Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. ²⁶ They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, ²⁷ but you are the same, and your years have no end. ²⁸ The children of your servants shall dwell secure; their offspring shall be established before you.

Even the end of our lives is in Jesus's hands.

7. Speaking of Resurrection Sunday, Jesus even raised the dead.
 - a) A young man in a casket on the way to the graveyard. Luke 7:11-15
 - b) A young girl whose death was apparent. Mark 5:22-24 & 35-43
 - c) Lazarus who had been dead four days. John 11:14-44.

Resurrection is, of course, the ultimate healing. This is Resurrection Sunday, the day we celebrate Jesus's resurrection.

Paul said this about Jesus's resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15.

- a) It is of first importance. 3
- b) That he appeared to more than 500 people at one time. 6

- c) He also appeared to all the disciples and Paul. 7-8
- d) If Jesus is not raised, preaching is in vain. 14
- e) If Jesus is not resurrected, faith is in vain. 14
- f) If Jesus is not resurrected, we are still in our sins. 16
- g) If Jesus is not resurrected, we will never see loved ones again. 18
- h) If Jesus is not resurrected, we are to be pitied. 19

But if Jesus is resurrected:

- a) He is the firstfruits for us. 20
- b) He is the answer to Adam's sin and death. 22

Fifth: Jesus's Priority. 42-44

Jesus's success in healing people created an unending demand for his attention. But, like us, Jesus had only so much time on earth and prioritized his ministry.

In this section, Luke demonstrates Jesus's authority over the eternal realm.

V 43 - *"I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose."*

Jesus knew that people could be temporally cured of immediate pain but still face an eternity separated from God, so he kept the main thing the main thing.

Mercy motivated him to heal people, but miracles also created the platform for preaching the gospel, which was his priority.

Moderns often want the church to prioritize temporal ministry, but the church must maintain vigilance about the Gospel. Mercy ministries must never take priority over the simply preaching of the gospel or the majority of our time, energy, or finances.

The church's primary purpose is to share the Good News, which is the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Only this can save us from what really hurts us.

Conclusion:

In this passage, Luke is demonstrating that Jesus is doing everything the promised Messiah was prophesied to do. And that he has sovereignty over every realm of life.

His plan is to establish Theophilus's faith in Jesus as God's son, incarnate on earth and able to forever save anyone who trusts in him.

Have you trusted Jesus as your Savior.

Community Groups

- 1 – Read the text
- 2 – What has made the greatest impression on you so far in Luke?
- 3 – Talk about Jesus's relationship to the synagogue.
- 4 - How it should it influence our lives?
- 5 – What might healing Peter's mother-in-law say about Jesus in the midst of his preaching and healing ministry?
- 6 – How did Peter's mother-in-law respond to her healing?
- 7 – How should this influence our lives?
- 8 – Talk about how Jesus healed people throughout this passage.
- 9 – What does this say about Jesus?
- 10 – Why did Jesus prioritize preaching?
- 11 – What does this say about the church's relationship to mercy ministries and missions?
- 12 – How do we respond to those who don't understand why God doesn't heal everyone now?

Daily Devotion

Monday, April 1st. Today is April Fool's Day. What did Jim Elliot mean when he said, *"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."* Can you rephrase this in your own words? Is there a way this is not reflective of your daily agenda, priorities or things you prize? How might this quote influence your decisions today?

Tuesday, April 2nd. Read Luke 4:31-32 & 38. All four Gospels tell us if it was a Saturday, Jesus was engaged in synagogue ministry. Our commitment to the weekly gathering should reflect his. What about you? In what ministry areas do you joyfully serve Christ at Heritage? If you are not serving, examine your SHAPE: spiritual gifts, heart (desires),

abilities, personality, and experiences to determine where you should serve. Then look at the Connect and find a place to begin your service.

Wednesday, April 3rd. Read Lk 4:38-39 & Hb 1:1-4. Hebrews reminds us that Jesus maintains creation. Even during his incarnation, he still managed the sun, moon, seasons, tides, etc. In the midst of all that, Jesus took time to care for one, ill, bedridden woman. In the daily activity of your busy life, don't overlook the one. To whom are you personally ministering? What 'one' sheep of God's flock are you serving?

Thursday, April 4th. Read Lk 4:39 & Eph 4:11-12 & 16. Peter's healed mother-in-law responded to Jesus's care by serving him and the disciples. Our calendars are like a checkbook. They reveal our truest passions. Paul told the Ephesians God gave ministers to the church to train the members to be ministers. Does your calendar reflect a passion for Christ, his church and world? Now 'healed' by Christ's salvation, what might you need to rearrange to exercise passionate service to Jesus and his kingdom?

Friday, April 5th. Read Lk 4:42-44. Jesus constantly balanced his personal life with public ministry. This balance is essential to our wellbeing and ability to minister to others. What about your personal life? Are you invested in the spiritual disciplines that will dig the well from which you will resource your marriage, friendships, vocation, and church life? Take another look at your calendar to ensure you are "coming apart" with Jesus, lest you "come apart" in life.