

The Miracles of Jesus

Lesson Seven

Casting out a Demon in the Synagogue at Capernaum

Text: Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37

Introduction:

1. Remember that Jesus came to Capernaum because, “A prophet hath no honor in his own country” (John 4:44).
2. He had been honored by the Samaritans, by a nobleman in Herod’s court and by uneducated fisherman on the Sea of Galilee.
3. But, the people of His “hometown” wanted to kill Him!
4. In Capernaum, Jesus would find honor again – this time, from a most unlikely source...

I. The Miracle

- A. First, consider the location of this miracle – in the synagogue.
 1. The synagogue was a place of worship and teaching.
 2. It was the heart of Jewish culture.
 3. It would have been filled with the most dedicated Jews, rabbis and disciples.
- B. Next, consider the setting of this miracle – a Sabbath Day service.
 1. Jesus made a habit of teaching upon the Sabbath days (Luke 4:31).
 2. Just from hearing His teaching, the people were astonished.
 - a. He taught with power and authority.
 - b. He did not teach like the scribes – in manner or doctrine.
 - c. The same thing is said at the end of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:28-29).
- C. Next, consider the power of this miracle – casting out an unclean demon.
 1. Demons were actual, intelligent beings – not merely diseases or illnesses (cf. Matthew 4:24; 10:8).
 2. They were personalities who could think and act (James 2:19).
 3. They were beings who could speak and answer (Mark 5:8-13).
 4. Demons are not the Devil, though sometimes called “devils.”
 5. They do not seem to be angels, for angels do not need bodies to dwell in as the demons do (cf. Mark 5:8ff; Luke 11:24-26).
 6. Most likely, demons were the spirits of men who had died (Luke 4:33).
 7. Demons were limited in speech and time (cf. Matthew 8:29).
 8. This was a real phenomenon during the age of miracles, but no more.
- D. Finally, consider the results of this miracle – Jesus’ authority proven.
 1. Note that the demon-possessed man was in the synagogue!
 2. The demon spoke the truth about Jesus, but he was not the right source.

- a. It was the testimony of a liar.
 - b. It might cause a misperception about Jesus.
 - c. It was not time for Him to be revealed.
 - d. He was to be made known by His words and works.
3. The demon was subject to the word of Christ – the man was unharmed.
 4. The authority they heard in Jesus’ preaching was confirmed by His actions.
 5. Jesus received honor from a demon when He did not receive it from His people.

II. The Manifestation

- A. Jesus’ power in the spirit realm was established.
- B. Jesus’ authority over the forces of evil was proven.
- C. Jesus’ deity was demonstrated.

III. The Message

- A. The devil may be found in the assembly of the church.
- B. Satan wants to (and will, if allowed) take control of our lives.
- C. Satan wants to harm and destroy both body and soul.
- D. Satan will not leave of his own accord – he must be resisted (James 4:7).
- E. Satan can be defeated by the power of the Word of God (Romans 1:16; James 1:21).