

The Life of Christ

Lesson 2

Luke 4:31-44, 8:26-39, 9:37-43

January 17, 2021

Jesus' Power Over Spiritual Forces of Evil

Introduction

There's a recent story, recently turned into a movie, of a 14-year-old boy in Missouri who fell through some ice and lay dead on an operating table for an hour. The mother comes into the operating room and prays for his miraculous recovery. The boy then starts to breathe and walked out with no lasting symptoms against all odds!

Why does God choose to completely heal one person while others fight for their lives with a severe disease or ailment? The age-old question that non-believers love to ask Christians is why do bad things happen to good people?

Who can determine the will of God, and how can we learn to trust Him when we don't understand His reasons? Sadly, we have more questions than answers in this area of the Bible, but there are things we can know for sure: God is good all the time. He can make something beautiful out of tragedy, and He always has a plan, even when we can't see it. Our next question is, how can we learn to trust Him more, especially when we don't understand?

Memory verse: "The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, 'Return home and tell how much God has done for you.' So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him."—Luke 8:38-39

Pray and read Luke 4:31-44, 8:26-39, 9:37-43. What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

What do the passages say?

1. What day did Jesus teach the people in Capernaum?
(Luke 4:31)
2. What did Jesus say to the man possessed by an impure spirit? (Luke 4:35)
3. What did the people have to say about what Jesus had done? (Luke 4:36)
4. What did Jesus do to the demons when they proclaimed that He was the Son of God? (Luke 4:41)
5. What was the name of the many spirits that entered the man in Gerasenes? (Luke 8:30)
6. Why did the people of Gerasenes ask Jesus to leave?
(Luke 8:37)
7. What was Jesus' response to the father of the demon-possessed boy? (Luke 9:41)

What do the passages mean?

1. Mark 9 reports the same story of the boy and Simon Peter's mother-in-law in Luke 4, yet Luke chooses to highlight Jesus' *authority* over the demon and the sickness more than the details of the ailments themselves. Why is it vital to know that Jesus has authority over all things? (Matthew 28:18; John 1:3; Acts 4:27-28; 1 John 4:4)

2. There are times when God chooses to heal and save and times when He does not (Acts 7:54-59; Acts 12:3-19). Is it possible to know God's will when praying for healing, safety, or something else going on in our lives? (Romans 12:1-2)

3. What could be some of the reasons God does not answer a prayer for healing? Use these or any other references for help. (Matthew 6:33; 2 Corinthians 1:9, 12:9-10; James 5:13-16)

4. Luke 8:26-39 tells of a community who cared more for their swine than a man possessed by demons. How are we to care for the sick and those in need? (Isaiah 1:17; Micah 6:8; Matthew 10:5-8; James 1:27)

Applying the passages

1. The crowd's reactions varied, but the sick and demon-possessed were always grateful for the miracle done by Jesus on their behalf. Often when they wanted to follow Jesus, He would tell them no, but to go back home and tell about what had happened. How is your life a testimony about what God has done? Is there a noticeable difference in who you used to be versus how God has transformed you? Why or why not?

