



## Sermon Discussion Questions

January 21, 2024

### *Jesus in Galilee*

## **A GLIMPSE OF GOD'S KINGDOM**

Luke 4:38-44

### **1. Opening Discussion Questions**

- a. Were you one of the unlucky ones who experienced a severe case of Covid? Or have you experienced some other serious illness? What was most important to you while you were ill – apart from clinical treatment? How would (did) being in isolation affect your recovery? When you were recovering, how long did it take you to be back to 100% and ready to resume all your normal activities?
- b. When have you truly been alone and isolated from other people for some time? If it was a deliberate event (a spiritual retreat) why did you feel solitude was desirable? If it was an unplanned event, how did you feel about being apart from other people?
- c. There have been studies showing that babies need to be held and experience physical touch if they are to grow normally. How important is the touch of others to you? Are you a hugger or a fist bumper?

### **2. Sermon Outline/Key Points**

- a. Jesus Reveals God's Kingdom in Word and Deed
  - i. Jesus demonstrates Kingdom concerns – healing, casting out demons, teaching, and preaching the Gospel
  - ii. Jesus makes clear preaching was most urgent and important
- b. As Kingdom Citizens We Must Care for People Like Jesus
  - i. Note Jesus' concern for individual needs
  - ii. We must sincerely care for those suffering physically and spiritually
- c. As Kingdom Citizens We Must Share Good News Like Jesus
  - i. Never forget, Jesus prioritized sharing the Gospel
  - ii. We must commit to share Christ with urgency

### **3. Study/Discussion Points:**

- a. *Sunday Afternoon* – As soon as possible after listening to the sermon set aside some time to prayerfully ponder these questions:
  - i. What one thing most stood out to you in this sermon?
  - ii. What new truth did you learn or of what truth were you reminded?
  - iii. After listening to the sermon, is there a Scripture passage you feel led to meditate on or commit to memory this week?
  - iv. What is one specific thing you feel God is leading you to do after hearing this message?

- v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?
- b. **Monday** – *Jesus Reveals God's Kingdom in Word and Deed*
- i. Read Luke 4:38-41 and then compare it to the description of this same event as recorded in Matthew 8:14-17 and Mark 1:29-34.
    - 1. What stood out as most significant to you in these passages?
    - 2. Compare Luke 4:28 with Luke 4:38-39.
      - a. How was the reaction of the people in Capernaum seemingly different from that of the ones in Nazareth?
      - b. How do you think that affected the events of the rest of the day (see Matthew 13:58)?
    - 3. What differences do you see in how Matthew, Mark, and Luke describe the way Jesus came to recognize the need of Simon's mother-in-law?
      - a. Do you think that Jesus needed to be told that a sick woman laying in bed needed help? Nonetheless, why was it important to do so?
      - b. What significance is there to the fact Matthew records that Jesus saw the need himself? What significance to the fact that Mark and Luke tell us others sought Jesus' help to heal her? What application do you think this has to us today?
    - 4. What did Simon's mother-in-law do after being healed? How does this seem strange and what does it suggest about the nature/extent of the healing Jesus provided?
- c. **Tuesday** – *Jesus Reveals God's Kingdom in Word and Deed*
- i. Reread Luke 4:38-41, Matthew 8:14-17, and Mark 1:29-34
  - ii. How did Luke's description of Simon's mother-in-law's condition differ from Matthew and Mark's description? Why would this be expected from Luke?
  - iii. What differences do you see in the actual act of healing? Between the three accounts which show Jesus being most involved physically? Which the least? What lesson can we take from these differences in the accounts?
  - iv. According to the three passages, who was present at the healing? How would you expect the healing of a relative or close friend of these disciples to have affected their belief in Jesus? Why would it be more significant than all the rest of Jesus' healings?
  - v. What insight do you get about how the Jews viewed the sabbath from the fact that verse 40 tells us they waited until the Sabbath was over (sunset) to bring their sick to Jesus?
    - 1. Do you see this delay as positive or a negative?
    - 2. If God gives us an instruction or command, when do you think our human condition (good or bad) is a valid excuse for not obeying?

*d. Wednesday – Jesus Reveals God's Kingdom in Word and Deed*

- i. Read Luke 4:39-41
- ii. According to verse 39 how did Jesus accomplish the healing?
  1. What does the term “rebuke” mean to you? Look up the definition.
  2. There is no indication in the record of this event that a demon was present in Simon's mother-in-law – the fever was an inanimate condition. What does it show us about Jesus and His authority that He can command the inanimate as well as the living? How does Mark 4:41 amplify this view of Jesus?
- iii. What does verse 40 tell us about those that Jesus was going to heal?
  1. How did they get there? Were people seeking their own healing?
  2. What does it tell us about who Jesus healed and who He did not?
  3. The verse is certainly talking about Jesus' physical acts of healing, but if we were to make a spiritual analogy from it, what might it say about what we should be doing as Christians today?
- iv. When Jesus cast out demons and they identified Him as the Son of God what did Jesus do?
  1. Do you see a parallel between the rebuking in verses 39 and 41?
  2. What possible reasons can you think of that might explain why Jesus would not allow the demons to identify Him?
  3. What do you see as the significance of the fact that demons know who Christ really is and so many humans refuse to believe?

*e. Thursday – Jesus Reveals God's Kingdom in Word and Deed*

- i. Read Luke 4:42-44 and Mark 1:35-39.
- ii. Although we are not told specifically, what does the way verse 42 starts suggest about the length of the healing service?
- iii. Combining the details of Luke 4:42a and Mark 1:35 what can we say about Jesus' priorities and actions?
  1. How important was prayer to Him?
  2. What setting did He seek for His prayer time?
  3. What lessons might we apply to our prayer life from these two passages?
- iv. After Jesus' prayer time was completed and He had been found by Simon and the people what seems to have been their request of Jesus?
  1. Why would such a request be expected?
  2. How does this attitude differ from that which Jesus experienced in Nazareth (Luke 4:28-30)?
  3. Do you think the people did not want Him to leave because of His spiritual teaching or His physical healings? Can you think of similar events in the Gospels where Jesus pointed out that people were seeking Him for the wrong reason?

- v. What does Jesus's response tell about His priorities and purpose?
    - 1. How does His response differ from what most people would say/do when confronted with great success and popularity?
    - 2. What does the last phrase of verse 43 tell us about Jesus and His ministry?
  - f. **Friday** – *As Kingdom Citizens We Must Care for People Like Jesus*
    - i. Once again read Luke 4:38-41, Matthew 8:14-17, and Mark 1:29-34 focusing on what is said or implied about how Jesus dealt with the needs of people?
      - 1. What did He not do to meet the needs of the sick that He would have certainly been able to do if He wanted (think wildly outside of the box, e.g. He didn't provide modern hospitals)?
        - a. Do you think there may be lessons about how we respond to the needy/hurting from considering His approach?
        - b. How does the modern idea of just giving some of our money to meet needs fit with the way Jesus met needs (recognizing of course that we can never meet needs the way He did)?
      - 2. What does it say to you that He "touched" those He was going to heal?
    - ii. Consider what James 2:15-17 and 1 John 3:16-18 teach. Also, Matthew 25:35-46. If we really took these, and other similar passages, to heart how do you think it would change the churches in America?
  - g. **Saturday** – *As Kingdom Citizens We Must Share Good News Like Jesus.*
    - i. Read Luke 4:43 then compare it to Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:15-16 and Acts 1:8.
      - 1. How does Jesus pass His mission on to us?
      - 2. How does our response compare to His?
    - ii. What application can we take from where verse 44 says Jesus conducted His preaching? What does it say to you that Jesus conducted His preaching in the synagogue – not just wherever the people were/wanted to be?
4. **Application:** Based on this sermon there should be two primary areas of our life that we examine:
  - a. Am I doing enough to help those in need and is it sufficiently personal – or am I trying to "keep my hands clean" by trying to meet needs just by giving some money?
  - b. Am I taking full advantage of every opportunity God gives to share the Gospel with those who don't know Christ?

## 5. Prayer Points:

- a. Adoration – 1 Peter 4:16
- b. Confession – James 5:16
- c. Thanksgiving – 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- d. Supplications – James 4:2-3