



## Road Trip: On the Road with Jesus in Galilee

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### Week 4: Jesus Heals and Casts Out Demons...again! (4:38-41)

<sup>33</sup> Once when he was in the synagogue, a man possessed by a demon—an evil spirit—began shouting at Jesus, <sup>34</sup> “Go away! Why are you interfering with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

<sup>35</sup> Jesus cut him short. “Be quiet! Come out of the man,” he ordered. At that, the demon threw the man to the floor as the crowd watched; then it came out of him without hurting him further.

<sup>36</sup> Amazed, the people exclaimed, “What authority and power this man’s words possess! Even evil spirits obey him, and they flee at his command!” <sup>37</sup> The news about Jesus spread through every village in the entire region. (Luke 4:33–37 NLT-SE)

<sup>38</sup> After leaving the synagogue that day, Jesus went to Simon’s home, where he found Simon’s mother-in-law very sick with a high fever. “Please heal her,” everyone begged. <sup>39</sup> Standing at her bedside, he rebuked the fever, and it left her. And she got up at once and prepared a meal for them.

<sup>40</sup> As the sun went down that evening, people throughout the village brought sick family members to Jesus. No matter what their diseases were, the touch of his hand healed every one. <sup>41</sup> Many were possessed by demons; and the demons came out at his command, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But because they knew he was the Messiah, he rebuked them and refused to let them speak. (Luke 4:33–41 NLT-SE)

#### - What did the disciples see and hear?

- **Again, Jesus rebukes the fever, which is a clear indication of what’s *behind* the fever...demonic affliction!** The question I have is, did Jesus discern the nature of the fever before he got to Peter’s mom’s home or when he walked into the room? When he looked at her, did Jesus see the demon? And does any of this matter?
- The fact that Peter’s mother got up and prepared a meal would be an indication that the fever was a **demonic manifestation and not really a sickness**. It also makes you wonder just how much of our “sickness’s” have a demonic base.
- **Who is “very sick” one moment and gets up “at once” to prepare a meal anyway?** What would be going through your mind if you saw all this unfolding? And how many questions did Jesus have to answer?
- I imagine that as evening began to roll around the disciples thought all the excitement of the day would begin to subside as well. Not so much. **Throughout the village people were bringing their sick family members to be**

**healed.** No doubt, the disciples likely tried to divert them away from Jesus, trying to give him a bit of a break. I can imagine Jesus wanting to touch each one and when he did, they were immediately healed...every single one of them!

- **Not just sick people, but “many were possessed by demons.”** The disciples were beginning to think that demonization wasn’t the exception, but the rule! Since arriving in Capernaum, Jesus has spent most of his time rebuking demons. There is no indication he’s been looking for them, but having to deal with demons who cannot stop talking about him. It’s like they were caught off-guard by his appearance and were expending a lot of energy harassing Jesus about, of all things, his identity.
  - <sup>36</sup> Amazed, the people exclaimed, “What authority and power this man’s words possess! Even evil spirits obey him, and they flee at his command!” <sup>37</sup> The news about Jesus spread through every village in the entire region. (Luke 4:36–37 NLT-SE)
- **So...what are Demons anyway?** Originally they were created by God as holy angels. Their home was heaven and they served and worshiped God. But through pride and rebellion they became evil. Their leader, Lucifer, became known as Satan the devil, he was able to lead one third of those holy angels in his prideful rebellion. As a result of their rebellion and pride, they were cast out of heaven by God Himself. They number in the millions. They are eternal. Created by God originally they will live forever. In the future, they will be thrown into a lake of fire where they will be tormented forever. They cannot be redeemed, they cannot be forgiven, nor will they or can they repent. They are forever wicked.
- **People who are not Christians...**belong to demons in the sense that they function under their dominating power.
  - You are the children of your father the devil, and **you love to do the evil things he does.** (John 8:44 NLT-SE)
  - We know that we are children of God and that **the world around us is under the control of the evil one.** (1 John 5:19 NLT-SE)
  - <sup>1</sup> Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. <sup>2</sup> **You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil**—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. <sup>3</sup> **All of us used to live that way**, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else. (Eph 2:1–3 NLT-SE)
  - Satan, who is the god of this world, **has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe.** They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. (2 Cor 4:4 NLT-SE)
- **Why did Jesus NOT allow the demons to speak?** Here are a few possibilities...
  - **Satan is called the “father of lies”** (John 8:44, Gen 3:4), and the demons who operate under the leadership of Satan will reflect the character of their evil leader. Obviously, Jesus would not want testimony about him and his ministry being propagated by the Devil’s minions. We also need to remember that some of the Jewish leaders associated Jesus with Beelzebub, "the prince of the demons" (Mark 3:22). So, allowing testimony from lying spirits might tend to cause confusion regarding that false claim.
  - **It was Jesus who did not want His identity established by the testimony of lying spirits**, but rather by the messianic signs (miracles) that He performed.

- <sup>4</sup> Jesus told them, “Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen— <sup>5</sup> the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor. <sup>6</sup> And tell him, ‘God blesses those who do not turn away because of me.’” (Matt 11:4–6 NLT-SE)
- <sup>21</sup> At that very time, Jesus cured many people of their diseases, illnesses, and evil spirits, and he restored sight to many who were blind. <sup>22</sup> Then he told John’s disciples, “Go back to John and tell him what you have seen and heard—the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor. <sup>23</sup> And tell him, ‘God blesses those who do not turn away because of me.’” (Luke 7:21–23 NLT-SE)
- **These miraculous signs** were predicted of the Messiah in the Old Testament.
  - In that day the deaf will hear words read from a book, and the blind will see through the gloom and darkness. (Is 29:18 NLT-SE)
  - <sup>4</sup> Say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you.” <sup>5</sup> And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. <sup>6</sup> The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy! Springs will gush forth in the wilderness, and streams will water the wasteland. (Is 35:4–6 NLT-SE)
- **Jesus didn’t pray that sick people be healed or pray that demonized people be delivered.** His instructions to his followers were to “heal the sick and cast out demons.” The game plan hasn’t changed. In fact, Jesus said, “Greater works” were on their way!
  - <sup>22</sup> On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and **cast out demons in your name** and performed many miracles in your name.’ <sup>23</sup> But I will reply, ‘**I never knew you.**’ (Matt 7:22–23 NLT-SE)
  - <sup>25</sup> Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people’s hearts, and they will learn the truth. <sup>26</sup> Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil’s trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants. (2 Tim 2:25–26 NLT-SE)
  - <sup>5</sup> Jesus sent out the twelve apostles with these instructions: “Don’t go to the Gentiles or the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup> but only to the people of Israel—God’s lost sheep. <sup>7</sup> Go and announce to them that **the Kingdom of Heaven is near.** <sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received! (Matt 10:5–8 NLT-SE)
- **The honest truth is, many times we pray for the sick to be healed because we want to see if we can heal people.** Another way of saying that might be, we want to see if God can heal through us. A lot of times when we pray for people to be delivered from demonic oppression, we want to see if God can deliver people through our prayers. The truth is, when that happens we’re not operating out of faith, but unbelief; not authority, but insecurity. The demons can see that insecurity, are actually emboldened to push back when we exert our supposed authority.
- **Activation: Ministering in the spirit and power of Jesus**
  - What is the agenda and strategy of demons when it come to their harassing of believers?
  - When confronted by the presence of demons, how did Jesus get them to leave?
  - Jesus didn’t pray for people who were being harassed by demons, he rebuked the demons. What does it mean to rebuke a malevolent spirit?
  - Break into pairs and minister to each other the way Jesus would.