

(Luke 4:31~44)

Beloved, we are living in a *sin sick* world... By that I mean that *as a result of sin* entering the world back in the garden, in the days of Adam and Eve, sickness and disease have ravished the countless lives of so many people. It seems like every time you turn around, you hear of someone else who has cancer, someone else who has heart disease, someone else who has a brain tumor, another person suffering from the devastating effects of diabetes, and on and on. By a show of hands, how many of you know of someone close to you that has recently been diagnosed with something pretty serious?

I just want to say, that is not the way God had designed it be... All these sicknesses and diseases that's going around, robbing us of our health, taking our loved ones away from us, is not of the Father, but of the enemy...Satan himself. I want to make this clear, because all too often, it is God who gets the blame. I've seen many get mad at God as a result of a sickness or disease or something, taking the life of their loved one. They argue, if God is so loving and so good, how could he allow my loved one to suffer the way they have? If God is so good, why does he allow an innocent, little girl or boy get cancer and die before they ever really get the chance to live?

I've heard several of those kinds of questions...all of which are good questions, but the answer is, God didn't do that, Sin did! Sin is the source of every disease, every illness, every suffering, every sorrow, every tear, every heartbreak...all of it is a result of sin in the world. Before the fall, there was no sickness, no pain, no sorrow, and no death, there was no hate, no war, no crime, and everything was perfect. It was a place of paradise, that is, until sin entered! Through God's adversary the devil, through his deception of Eve, sin entered the world and corrupted everything in its wake...

When we heard the word, *sin*, we likely associate it with a "wrong" act that is committed, such as lying, stealing, drinking, murder or whatever. But that is not what sin is, but merely the effects of sin has in the lives of people. Sin is better described as an "entity," the presence of evil. Before sin entered the world, there was no hate, no lies, no abuse, no murder, no form of evil of any kind. But all that changed when sin entered the world. Sin corrupts, it defiles, it destroys everything it touches. As we look around us today, at all the sickness and disease, all the problems, the crime, all of it is the result of sin in the world.

I'll say it again...we are living in a *sin sick* world... What does a *sin sick* world need?

Right...*a Physician*... And a physician might well be the best metaphor for Christ, because he saw people as sick, people who were beaten and ravished by sin. He saw helpless victims, who had fallen prey to the enemy, who stood in need of help. Which is very much the way Jesus described himself in the previous verses leading up to this passage. While he was in his hometown synagogue, Jesus read from Isaiah 61, and declared that it was written of him.

¹⁸The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, ¹⁹To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Given that it speaks of "healing" and "restoring sight to the blind," helping *those that are bruised*, it clearly suggest a figurative language, in the tone of a doctor or physician. It becomes quiet clear that is how the hearers perceived it. Having read that passage and declaring himself to be the fulfillment of it, the people became offended and rejected the notion entirely. Jesus knowing their hearts, declares the thoughts of their hearts before they even say them out loud...³*And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.*

Ye will surely say unto me this proverb ... Jesus knew what was on their hearts... He knew what they were thinking, and before they could say it, he tells them. The proverb of “*Physician, heal thyself*” was one of sarcasm...one of disdain, one formed out of unbelief. In essence, it was, “*If you’ve come to heal the broken hearted, mend the bruised, to give sight to the blind...you must be a doctor. If that’s the case, then prove it...do the miracles here as you did elsewhere...show us.*”

This was not a legitimate plea for Jesus to help them and others there in his hometown of Nazareth, who were sick, stricken with some kind of infirmity. But rather this was spoken out of disdain, and contempt, stemming from a heart of unbelief. In other words, it was a sarcastic remark, “*So you claim to be a doctor do you, well then prove it.*”

The interesting thing is, they never actually said it, but he knew what was in their hearts... He goes on in verse 24 to say, that he knew this, and that it was to be expected. Jesus declares the truth *that no prophet is accepted in his own country*. He goes on to give two examples that would validate what he is saying to be true. He pointed to the examples of Elijah and Elisha, and how that they were not accepted in their own country, those of the nation Israel. He declares, that as a result of rejection, they couldn’t help any in their own nation; they had to go to the Gentiles. He basically said, that Israel was a “*faithless nation...*” and that this had always been the case...suggesting that the Gentiles had more faith than them! Which infuriated them, so much so they tried to kill him!

What a sad and tragic story, Jesus had come to bless and to help those of his own country, but because of unbelief, he could not. In Mark and Matthew’s account of Jesus’ rejection in Nazareth, they stated, “*he could do no mighty works there because of their unbelief, with the exception of a few sick folk whom he laid hands on and healed.*”

Faith seems to put the almighty power of God into the hands of men...

Whereas unbelief appears to tie up even the hands of the Almighty.

Leaving Nazareth, he travels down to Capernaum, a city that bordered the sea of Galilee, also the hometown of Simon Peter. And once again, we find him in the synagogue teaching them on the Sabbath days, and once again, we find the people were in awe of his teaching.

(Vs 33~44) We find that Jesus was well received in Capernaum, and was able to perform several miraculous healings and other mighty works. Luke records that many were healed of sickness and disease, but goes into great detail on three accounts, two of which involved that casting out of demonic spirits.

(Vs 33~35) ³³And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, (**Demonic Spirit**) and cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God. ³⁵And Jesus rebuked him, saying, **Hold thy peace, and come out of him.** And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not.

This one is interesting... Luke makes it clear, that it was not the man who was speaking, but rather this “*demonic spirit*” that had possessed his body. It appears that the spirit took over this man’s mouth and pleaded with Jesus to leave them alone. Notice, that spirit first refers to him as “*thou Jesus of Nazareth,*” speaking to his the man standing before the people. But notice, the spirit quickly declares that “**he knows who HE is...you are the HOLY ONE of God...**”

Here we have the testimony of the demons of Hell, bearing witness that this Jesus of Nazareth was indeed the Son of God!

(Vs 40~41) This is not the only one that did this, Luke tells us that “many” did the same thing...

⁴⁰Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. ⁴¹And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.

Think about that, the demons of hell knew who he was, and were subject to him... It's obvious by this first one that they feared him, for they asked him if he had come to destroy them...

(Vs 34) ³⁴Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? **art thou come to destroy us?** I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God.

You think they don't know scripture... The demons' of hell know what is there end. The book of Revelations tells us that in the end God will cast the Devil and all his angels and all his associates in the lake of fire and brimstone, to be tormented night forever and ever... It's apparent here, that when they saw Jesus, and recognized who he was, they thought there time had come.

(Luke 8) Luke writes of another instance where Jesus cast out demons out of a man, in the land of Gadarenes, located just a few miles from Capernaum. This man was wild, and out of control. When Jesus approached this man, he responded much the same way...

²⁸When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? **I beseech thee, torment me not.**

³⁰And Jesus asked him, saying, **What is thy name?** And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him. ³¹And they besought him that he would not command them **to go out into the deep.** (A very likely reference to the “**Bottomless Pit.**”)

³²And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them. ³³Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked.

Just a note... The only reason Jesus did not cast them into the deep, was that it was not time... The devil and his angels have “*their season.*” But it is one that is quickly running out.

Here in Luke 4, in both instances, Jesus refused to allow them to speak... In both cases, as soon as they began to speak, he rebuked them, and told them to be quiet! In verse 35, he told that one... **Hold thy peace, and come out of him...** It is the same with the others, verse 41... ⁴¹And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them **suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.**

That's an interesting statement to me, you'd think that if the demons of hell were testifying who he was, that he'd let them speak, but he doesn't. I'm convinced largely in part that God's plan of redemption was not based on the testimony of men, nor of angels or demons, but rather the testimony of the written word and spirit of God. He often told men not to tell anyone he was the Christ, again this is the work of the spirit.

The only other miracle that Luke goes into detail on, is the healing of Simon Peter's mother-in-law...

(4:38~39) ³⁸And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her. ³⁹And he stood over her, **and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.**

Notice in all three accounts, Luke emphasizes that he “*rebuked*” them... He *rebuked* the unclean spirits, and here he *rebuked* the fever. That’s interesting in that it pictures the infirmities as an “*entity*” that had *invaded the bodies* of these people. Jesus dealt with the fever the same way he did the demons, as some outside foe that had invaded the body of these people.

³⁹*And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and **it** left her...*

In an instant, the fever was gone... Just as the spirits had come out of those men, so did the fever... This is interesting in that, just as the unclean spirit, sickness and disease is portrayed as an “*entity*” that has invaded the body.

Beloved, I am convinced, that all manner of disease and infirmities all around us today, all this cancer, brain tumors, heart disease, diabetes, flu’s, etc...are “*entities*” sent by the “*wicked one*,” to invade and attack our bodies! What we are seeing is not outbreaks of epidemics, but rather the attacks of Satan on God’s creation, in these last days.

I thank God for the medicines and technological advance that have come about to help combat some of these sickness. I think modern medicine has come a long way in the treatment and prevention with a lot of sickness and diseases. But I want to make this clear; they will never be able to rid the world of these things, because they’re not something that can stopped with technology or medicines. Infirmities and diseases are the results of Sin in the world. As long as Sin is in the world, there will be sickness and death.

Here in this passage, we see a beautiful picture, of the creator rebuking an invading entity that has taken up residence in his creation, seeking to destroy it. But powerless before him, it hunkers in submission, and flees the body.

Beloved, we are living in Sin Sick World...and the only cure is Jesus Christ... We need to pray over the sick, in the name of Jesus Christ. Fathers, we need to pray over our children, rebuking Satan and forbidding him to touch the lives of our children in the name of Jesus!

(Vs 42~44) ⁴²*And when it was day, he departed and went into a desert place: and the people sought him, and came unto him, and stayed him, that he should not depart from them.* ⁴³*And he said unto them, **I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.*** ⁴⁴*And he preached in the synagogues of Galilee.*

The passage closes out with the people seeking out Jesus, and trying to get him to say with them... But he declares he cant’ do that, that he must go to the other cities preaching the message of the kingdom, for that was the purpose of his coming. There’s a good truth we need to see here... Jesus makes it clear, that his real mission was not simply to be a healer of man’s infirmities, but to preach the kingdom. The real infirmity he came to heal and set captives free from is SIN! And that’s what the gospel does! His mission was not simply to heal physical sickness...but something far greater and far more deadly...Sin sickness! He is the great physician...