



Acts of Divine Favor Extend Jesus's Reputation and Deepen his Disciples' Faith
Luke 4:31-41

A Cliffhanger from Last Week

Luke 4:18 *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor...freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind to set the oppressed free, **19** to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

Luke 4:23b... *"you will tell me, 'Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'"*

Jesus Publicly Enacts the "Year of the Lord's Favor"

1. **Unlike Nazarenes, the people in Capernaum recognized Jesus' authoritative speech**
Luke 4:31 *Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath, he taught the people. **32** They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority.*
2. **An interruption by an unwelcome "regular" occasions Jesus' setting a prisoner free**
Luke 4:33 *In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, **34** "Go away! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" **35** "Be quiet!" Jesus said sternly. "Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him.*
3. **On the evidence of his authority, Jesus's fame extends to more people**
Luke 4:36 *All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What words these are! With authority and power, he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!" **37** And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area.*

For his Followers, Jesus's Healing Builds their Faith in his Tender Care

Luke 4:38 *Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. **39** So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.*

What is the importance of Jesus's encounter with unclean spirits?

1) Jesus's divine identity and mission are well understood by his spiritual opposition.

Col. 1:16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

2) The Son is notarized by resurrection power not demonic proclamation.

Rom.1: 4 [He] was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

3) Jesus's authority is total and unchallengeable.

All Who Come to Jesus in Faith enjoy the Lord's Favor

Luke 4:40 At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. **41** Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.

Reflection & Discussion

1. Those who came to Jesus for healing had experienced a variety of suffering. How does Jesus's response to them encourage you to come trustingly to Him in the suffering you face in life? Do you expect to find a compassionate, merciful Savior?
2. Can you recall a time when you have experienced the tender care of Jesus? How did that experience impact your trust in his care and promises?
3. Jesus, the anointed Son of God, displayed the "Lord's Favor" in powerful words and deeds that impacted the lives of those who came to him. How might your experience of God's love, in sending his Son and your knowledge of who Jesus is, help unbelieving friends and family enter into the Favor of God?

SONGS

"HOSANNA (PRAISE IS RISING)"

"THE ONE WHO SAVES"

"BEAUTIFUL LORD"

"GOODNESS OF GOD"

Altamont Music Pastor: Shawn Hoelsch (shawn@vbc.online)

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 34,327.57

WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,985.00

Y-T-D GIVING: \$ 154,413.15

Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$ 221,910.00

ALTAMONT CAMPUS EXPANSION FUND:
(Last Entry – 2/01) \$ 51,486.00

Note: Envelopes for financial gifts, prayer requests, & communication to our church leadership are in the seatback pockets. Please deposit the envelopes in the offering boxes by the exit doors. Thank you!