

LUKE 4:31-37

4 SEPTEMBER 2022

ICE BREAKER: Describe a talent or possession you have that you can use to give you an advantage.

GROUP QUESTIONS:

There are **no shortages** of **motivational speakers** in the world. Many have the gift to convince us to do things we would not otherwise do, or buy things we would not otherwise buy. Some of them we call friends. Others we call enemies. Still others we call salespersons.

No doubt the Galilean people had heard many **inspirational** speeches in their time. However, upon hearing Jesus, they witnessed something drastically different. “They were **amazed** at his teaching, because his message had **authority**.”

1. What is the **difference** between a message with **inspiration** and that with **authority**?

(Read verse 33) In our modern, secular society, the physical sciences determine what is believable. By and large, anything **supernatural** is discounted as **imagination** or **superstition**.

However, in Biblical times and throughout much of the rest of the world, the supernatural world is as real as the physical world. In this passage, a man is described as possessed by a **demon**.

2. Describe ever experiencing or witnessing a **demonic presence** in your life.

(Read verses 33-34) In meeting Jesus the **demon** cried out, “**I know who you are**—the Holy One of God.” Even evil spirits **know who Jesus is**. James 2:19 says, “You **believe** that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.”

Demons know all about Jesus. They believe His claims and tremble in fear. Notice however Jesus does not consider such belief as **faith**. Look at Jesus’ harsh response in verse 35. “**Be quiet!**” Jesus said sternly.”

3. What is the difference between **knowing all about Jesus** versus **knowing Him**?

(Read verse 35) When **Jesus delivered** the man from the demon’s control, “the demon threw the man down before them all.” However, Luke the physician adds that although the evil spirit threw the man to the ground, the demon “came out **without injuring** him”.

When Jesus delivers us from whatever **stronghold** or **sinful habit** controlling or destroying our lives, **Satan** will surely **oppose violently**. Whom Satan cannot **destroy**, he will do all he can to **injure**. However, Jesus will always deliver us with the least amount of injury and damage possible. We **do not have that promise** when we try to **free ourselves** with our own power from our strongholds.

4. What has been your experience when you tried to **free yourself**, on your own power, from **your strongholds or destructive habits**?

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to witness Christ to this week.)
