

## Bible Study Luke 4:38-44

1. Can you think of times when someone's words are not taken seriously? What are the reasons for this?

2. **Read Luke 4:31-37** We're not told here exactly what Jesus was teaching. **Read Luke 4:14-21**, what was the content of his message?

*That he was the "anointed one" prophesied by Isaiah who would announce the good news - God's favour (freedom, recovery, release ie forgiveness and restoration) to Israel.*

3. What do you think it means that his "message had authority"?

*That his word had the power to carry out his message – to bring about the things proclaimed. Whether the people meant this in its fullness, they could at least see Jesus' words were not spoken lightly but were to be taken seriously.*

4. How is his authority displayed in this paragraph? How does this relate to his "message"?

*Jesus had the right to exercise control over the demon. The man who had the demon is left unharmed – "released" (v 18). Notice how Luke adds "without injuring him" v.35 – perhaps people would have expected him to be harmed, or perhaps this is the intention of demons – but Jesus brings true release.*

5. Why do you think Jesus silenced the demon (the word in v.35 is literally "be muzzled!")? It might help to try to imagine the whole scene as it unfolded.

*Jesus was in the synagogue **teaching**. The demon seems to have interrupted him – in no subtle way. Not only is Jesus' teaching affected, but such a man (probably seen as being out of his mind due to having a demon) calling out such things, might serve to do little more than make such claims sound ridiculous. There is only one way to proclaim the good news about Jesus and that is with the authority of God so that men and women might hear and engage seriously with it in order to lead them to God, and demons will have no part in this.*

6. **Read Luke 4:38-41.** Why does Jesus "rebuke" the fever and the demons?

*These things are 'aberrations' of the way life was purposed by God to be. They are the result of the curse in Gen 3, they have no rightful place controlling the lives of men and women. Jesus is the anointed one who has come to declare God's favour – the end of the curse through his powerful word.*

7. **Read Luke 4:42-44.** Compare this paragraph with vv38-41. What can you say about Jesus' ministry (his teaching and his healing / miraculous works)?

*His priority is preaching the good news. This is his primary work. The healings and removal of demons come in response to people's requests or demonic interruption. Such actions are the consequences or outworkings of the word he came to proclaim.*

8. If Jesus was anointed by God to preach the good news, and he was compelled to do so – "*I must preach the good news...*" – what are the implications of this for us? What are some practical ways we can respond?

*We must listen!*

*We must take his word seriously.*

*We need to believe and obey.*

*And surely we must not keep it to ourselves! **Read Acts 8:4** – a description of the earliest Christians, even though they were fleeing from persecution, "preached the good news" as they went – talking to others about Jesus and his Kingship is a normal part of being a Christian.*