

## **"I KNOW WHO YOU ARE!"**

**Luke 4:31-5:16**

How would you have responded had we walked the streets of Galilee, or of Jerusalem and observed firsthand Jesus' ministry?

What would our reaction have been?

**Jesus' works confirm that He is Messiah,  
and the masses begin to follow Him.**

**Luke takes note of the distinct responses of the people, when  
confronted with the evidence of who Jesus is (4:14-9:50)**

**JESUS' MINISTRY DESCRIBED WITH ATTENTION TO DISTINCT RESPONSES.**

**Responses to the Son of Man's ministry 4:14-9:50**

**Evidence of Jesus' authority 4:31-5:16**

God gives Him power to perform many miraculous works which demonstrate His claim to be Messiah.

### **FIVE EVIDENCES OF HIS AUTHORITY**

#### **1. Authority over demons 4:31-37**

The story begins with the reaction of the people to His teaching–NOT to miracles **4:31-32**

His miracles bring Him trouble

- they attract the multitudes
- they attract the leaders of the opposition
- they distract Him from the more important 4:43

***His teaching causes him to stand out from all the others!***

JDP– "The scribes sought to produce witnesses to support their interpretations of the Scriptures [They were the "footnote specialists" of their day!]. Christ did not depend on what other men had said but rested on His own authority as He taught."

*He talked like someone who knew what He was talking about!*

**In the same way He deals with the demon. 4:33-37**

He doesn't go through the incantations of the exorcists.

He simply commands demons to leave–with the authority of one who has the right to give orders, and the demon leaves–with a fight, but nevertheless, obedient to the order given.

Even the demons recognize His authority and are subject to it.

Lit., "What to us and to you?" Heb., = "What do you have against us?"

"Why don't you just go away and leave us alone?" Cp. John 2.

Additional evidence: the testimony of the demons who know Him

*The danger of knowing all about Him–but not trusting in Him.*

#### **2. Authority over sickness and demons 4:38-41**

His power over illness and demons shows that He's Messiah.

#### **3. AUTHORITY TO PREACH about the kingdom 4:42-44**

Jesus is commissioned by God to preach the good news concerning the kingdom of God. **THIS WAS HIS MAIN PURPOSE!**

His fame because of miracles is being spread too far–many came just for that.

He has to leave in order to accomplish His main purpose: to preach the good news concerning the kingdom.

**God sends Him to preach good news about the kingdom of God–NOT to do miracles!**

Therefore, He keeps moving and preaching to all the towns of Israel.  
 The people want Him to stay  
 but He has to announce the good news to all Israel.

#### 4. Authority over nature 5:1-11

The masses gather around *to hear the Word of God*.  
 The major focus of His ministry is proclaiming God's Word.  
 People are swarming around Him to hear His message—it's different  
 than anything they ever heard.  
 Jesus demonstrates His **AUTHORITY OVER NATURE** by sending  
 the huge catch of fish to Peter and his friends.  
 The authority Jesus administers to enable them to catch multitudes of  
 fish will enable them to attract multitudes of men to Him also.

#### 5. Authority over leprosy 5:12-16 5:12-14

Another evidence: His cleansing of the leper.  
 The man has no doubt concerning Jesus' *ability* to heal him.  
 The question on his mind deals with God's *willingness* to heal him.  
 Normally, touching a leper makes the clean one unclean.  
 Jesus gives a dramatic demonstration of His ability to reverse the process.  
 He's the only one able to touch a leper and cleanse him,  
 rather than the reverse.  
 The leper's report is to be given as a testimony to the priest.  
 No one had ever obeyed these instructions of Moses before.  
 It was a radical departure!  
 Only Miriam and Naaman had ever been cured.  
 Both times it was a clear evidence that God had done it!  
 This is a highly contagious physical illness.  
 No one would get near a leper.  
 It's an illness that has social, as well as physical implications.  
 The person is looked down on as a sinner, as well as a physically ill person.  
 It's used as a type of sin itself.  
 It has a small beginning but grows, contaminating all who came in contact with  
 it—just like sin does!  
 In modern history there's no comparable physical illness, at least as perceived by  
 most people.  
 Recently, AIDS has sort of taken its place.  
 If Jesus were to come back and start healing people sick with AIDS, some  
 religious people would begin to wonder about Jesus.  
 He's healing "the wrong kind" of people!

This sign attracts great multitudes to Him. 5:15-16

It illustrates His ministry to the poor and outcasts.  
 Crowds are so great He has to withdraw from them to pray alone.  
 Again we see that there's **NO LACK OF EVIDENCE**.

Again fame attracts the people—He departs  
*Everytime the masses are attracted by His miracles, Jesus leaves.*  
 So many people came that He had to leave to pray alone.  
 After the healing of the leper, the Pharisees show up. 5:17  
 They come from everywhere and take the front row seats.

They want to know what He's up to—so they can *STOP Him!*

***Observers in these miraculous circumstances demonstrate at least three responses to witnessing the evidence concerning Who Jesus is:***

**THREE ALTERNATIVE RESPONSES TO THE EVIDENCE:**

1. Curious to know more but unconvinced and uncommitted

**-CURIOUS, BUT UNCONVINCED AND UNCOMMITTED**

The multitudes hear the rumors and want to see for themselves

**They come to see the show. 4:32, 36-37, 40, 42; 5:1**

Word is getting around, but the people make no commitment

They're just curious to know more

They're amazed, but never become committed—"we're just looking, thank you!"

2. Convinced of Who He is and going on about your business

**-CONVINCED BUT UNCOMMITTED**

The demons represent this kind of response

*They know Who He is, but have no intention of surrendering! 4:34, 41*

They know all about Him—they know where He's from

—but they don't trust in Him. **James 2:19**

In spite of the evidence, they refuse to give in—they form the opposition

Seeing the evidence, and knowing what it means,

doesn't guarantee surrender (submission)

Jesus refuses to let them give their testimony—He shuts them up

3. Convinced of who He is and committed to convincing others

**-CONVINCED AND COMMITTED**

**Peter** makes clear that He is a sinner **5:8**

He doesn't deserve to follow Him

But He's convinced and committed **5:5, 10-11**

Jesus uses Him to catch others

**NORMAL RESPONSE FOR THE CONVINCED AND COMMITTED:**

**-THEY WANT TO BRING OTHERS TO JESUS!**

**Peter's mother-in-law becomes a convinced, committed servant 4:39**

**Leper is convinced (5:12) and becomes a committed witness 5:14**

To these expert fishermen, his requests seemed strange!

They go against all they know about fishing!

Nevertheless, they're committed to Him, and follow His lead.

The time to fish is at night, when the fish come near the surface.

They have just been at it all night and proven that the fish have gone elsewhere.

To receive the benefit of His coming they must trust Him enough to go against all their experience has taught them.

They go in full daylight

They cast out into deep water

Because they follow His commands, they get an abundant catch

That's the way you catch men

If you go at it by the world's rules, it will look great, but catch little.

To get a supernatural catch, you have to follow God's lead.

It would never happen if they didn't obey that first "strange" command!

That takes commitment.

***Which of the above represents us?***

***How does Jesus react to each?***

Notice Jesus' reaction to all this—it's hard work—even for Him!

Even Jesus takes time alone with His Father to "get His batteries recharged" **4:42, 5:16**

Motivating the curious is hard work.

He knows it isn't an especially fruitful endeavor.

He gives Himself to the convinced and committed.

Not to the curious uncommitted

Not to the convinced and uncommitted

How does Jesus respond to the uncommitted?

***What should we do on the basis of the evidence presented?***