

- **Reread Luke 4:18–19**, in which the prophet Isaiah describes the calling of the Anointed One, the Messiah or Christ sent to bring in God’s kingdom.
- **Now read Luke 4:31–44**. As you read, notice how Jesus’ words and actions are beginning to fulfill Isaiah’s prophecy, attesting to who Jesus is and why he was sent.

1. What titles used of Jesus in 4:31–44 confirm that he is the Anointed One Isaiah spoke of (4:18–19)? (vv. 34, 41)

2. In the fourth chapter of his gospel, Luke places great emphasis on Jesus’ teaching (vv. 15–22, 31–32, 43–44).

a. How do the people react to his teaching on this Sabbath in Capernaum, and why? (v. 32; Mk. 1:22)

b. What interrupts Jesus’ teaching on this day? (vv. 33–34)

“Whilst the Jewish rabbis and scribes had spoken only by appealing to the traditions of their predecessors, Jesus spoke with a unique freshness and consciousness of His calling, based on the fact that He was the Son of God and thus possessed divine authority. The authority of the words of Jesus was the authority of absolute truth. For these reasons it was said of Him: ‘Never man spake like this man!’ (John vii. 46).”¹

3. Commentator Norvel Goldenhuys describes the demon’s cry as one of “terror and dismay”.² Why is the demon so alarmed by Jesus’ presence? (vv. 33–34; 1 Jn. 3:8b; * Col. 2:9–10, 15; Jas. 2:19)

4. Why do you think Jesus silences the demon here and the demons in verse 41?

5. This is the first miracle Luke records. Jesus performs it in the synagogue “before them all” (v. 35).
 - a. How do the people respond? (v. 36)

 - b. What happens as a result? (v. 37)

► **Read Luke 4:38–44.** (Note: Simon is better known as Peter.)

6. What miracle does Jesus perform in verses 38–39?

How do the details given in verse 39 demonstrate the power and completeness of Jesus’ healing?

7. Jesus has already had a pretty full day. What happens once evening has fallen and the Sabbath is officially over? (v. 40)

8. What action does Jesus take in healing each person who has come to him? (v. 40b)

What do you think this action shows about Jesus?

9. Over what two sources of misery does this week’s passage show Jesus exercising power?

10. Why does Jesus seek out a “solitary place” early the next morning (v. 42)? (Mk. 1:35; Lk. 5:16)

11. Unlike the people of Nazareth (vv. 28–30), the people of Capernaum “[try] to keep [Jesus] from leaving them” (v. 42).

a. Why do you think they are so eager for him to stay?

b. Why is it impossible for him to do so? (v. 43)

12. Jesus is compelled to “preach the good news of the kingdom of God” (v. 43). From earlier chapters in Luke, what are some of the things this good news of the kingdom includes?
1:31–33

1:50–55

1:68–79

2:11

2:14

2:30; 3:6

3:16–17

13. Jesus' earthly ministry ushers in the kingdom of God, and in Luke 4 we see Jesus using his authority to begin defeating two great enemies – sickness and demonic powers (📖* Mt. 12:28). Later, through his death, resurrection, and exaltation to God's right hand, Jesus ensured the ultimate defeat of these enemies. Because of Jesus' work, the kingdom of God is here *now*.

In another sense, however, the kingdom of God is *not yet*. We are all too aware of the evil and suffering that continue to plague our world. But the victory Jesus earned will one day be fully realized. Read Revelation 20:10, 14 and 21:1–4. What picture do these verses give us of the fully consummated kingdom of God?

14. Ask God to help you...

...look back in gratitude for Jesus' obedience to his call to bring "the good news of the kingdom of God" (v. 43);

...look ahead in faith to the glorious fulfillment of God's kingdom; and

...look around for ways that you, as one of God's people, can work to advance his kingdom now.

*📖 For further study

¹ Norvel Geldenhuys. *The Gospel of Luke: The New International Commentary on the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1951), 169.

² *Ibid.* 173.