

Jesus' Agenda: Proclaim an Authoritative Message, Backed Up by Authoritative Action

- Last wk, kickd J out ch; draggd edge cliff to thrw dwn, kill. But that did not deter Son/God. Went strt fr Naz to Cap to do very same thng: go syngg, prch Gos. Got right back wrk, bec J: man/mssn; drivn; knws WHY of his life; knws purp; has agnda. When hear wrd agnda, maybe thnk bsns mtg, agnda: outline/mtg, order of discsn points. Or maybe thnk to-do list: I alwys like have to-do list, check thngs off when get done; maybe you same. List shows what need do. J knew what needd do; knew purp; had agnda. When rejctd at Naz, went to Cap. And when done in Cap (end of les), J: **vs. 43**. J was sent by God on specfc mssn: *TITLE*. That was J's agnda; and that is what we see today.
- We pick it up right where left off lst wk. J travels from Naz to Cap; Sab day, so goes ch; again tchs ppl. Last wk we heard part/sermon: "Isa 61 – that's me; talking re me. Spirit/Lord on me bec he's anntd me proclaim GN to poor & freedom for prisoners. That's what I've come do." We're not told exctly what said in sermon at Cap; but imagine much same: "I am fulflmnt/Scrprr; all God's proms of delvrnc/salv/forgvns are being fulfld in me." And that msg must've had impact, bec "**ppl...32**." Little later: **vs. 36...power**. J came proclaim athtv msg.
- One that was backed up by athrtv action. Today's Gos is the acct of action-packd day in life/J. Goes ch in morn; prchs sermon. There at syng: dmn pssd man. Mid service, starts scream/shout; makng big scene; must've been terrfyng be there, watch this hap. It's like Satan in hell: screeching thru this poor man, desprtry trying stop J: **vs. 34**. And right there, in mid service, "**J said sternly**," litly "**rebuked**" (remem!) dmn: **vs. 35a**. And dmn gone. Quite the ch service!
- Well, now ch over; J goes across street to new frnd/his named Simon. We: Pt. Next Sun we're going hear re how J goes fishing w/SP, then calls him fish for ppl. But today, Simon's concern is w/fam. Wife crying bec her mother, who lives w/them, dying. "**High fever**." Back then couldn't just pop Tylenol/Advil or zip down to ER get fluids/antbtcs. This woman: in trouble, forehead hot to touch, shivrng in bed, clothes soaked w/sweat; older woman, and dying. So in comes J; we're told: **vs. 39a (rebuked: wrd again!); 39bc**. That little detail at end just shows how quickly healing took place. She goes from deathbed to mixing up bite eat lunch just like that. J came: *TITLE*, rebuking dmn/fever.
- Now, Cap not that big of town; wrd spreads fast. Still Sab day, but when sun sets, Sab over; so evone comes out wdwrk. **Vs. 40-41ab (rebuked, 3rd)**. So as Lk tells us this story/day/life/J, starts w/dmn at morn syngg service; then tells us re afrtn fever Pt's ma-in-law; finly by nightfall he's healing many ppl w/many sicknesses & many dmns. That was: his to-do list, his agenda!
- Now, there's just so many thngs in this acct, in this day/life/J that we can learn re Sav. 1st: compssn, love/Xp. See how much J loves these ppl! Could've snappd fngrs, heald evone in instnt. But no, wht do? Stays up all nght long triaging whole twm. One after anothr, ppl keep comng to J; he heals evone, indvly: this man w/brkn foot, woman who's blind, little girl w/ear infctn, teenager w/dmn – heals them all. For Pt's mo-in-law, says "**bent over her**." Didn't keep his distance; got right next her, bent down, stared that fever in face, broke it. Then at night, when whole twm shows up, says J "**[laid] his hands**." Touched the sick ppl; put hands on them! Physcly showed how much cares for each prsn indvly! You know: physcl touch is very strong non-verbal commnctn of compssn; that's what J does here. And it's not like the sickness transfers from ppl to him. No, his healing pwr is transferd fr J to ppl. Last wk, from Isa 61, J: "I've come set captives free." That's exctly what doing: freeing ppl from grip of bodily illness and dmn control – bec loves them! And loves you, too! Cares for you w/same compssn as he has for ppl/Cap. When you're sick, bends over your bed; touches your shldr w/his hand. Smtms we doubt the love/Xp, esp when physcl healing is not his plan for our loved ones. But today, SEE love/compssn/Xp as triages whole town, and know that he loves you just the same.
- 2nd, authrty/pwr/Xp. 2x in this les ppl remark: wrds have authrty. And 3x it says J rebukes: first morning dmn; then fever; then evening dmns – he rebukes them. Might remem that when J calmd storm, rebukd wind/waves. Simply speaks word, & all forces nature/hell cower in obdnc. Scared of him! In opening hymn: *See how he sends the pwrs of evil reeling; he brings us freedom, light and life and healing (CW 556:2)*. J may look like ordnry man. But "**in Xp all the fullnss of Deity lives in**

bodily form” (Col 2:9). His wrd has authrty. We see that today in these healings. We see it in bap. Just looks like little wtr cermny w/baby in ch. But J’s wrd has authrty, and when his wrd says, **“God saved us thru washng rebrth/renewl by HS,”** that means when we’re baptzd, really do receive forgvns/slvtn and become **“heirs havng hope etrn lfe” (Titus 3:5-7).** We see it in HC. Just looks like anothr ch cermny. But J’s wrd has authrty, and when he says: this is my b/bl gvn/shd for you, for your forgvns – that is exctly what we recieve. Again, smtms we doubt authrty/pwr/J when we don’t see w/own eyes *pwr of evil reeling*. But never doubt pwr or love/J. Just look what does today: speaks word, rebukes devils/diseases, they obey. That’s the authrty/pwr of J!

- Finally & most imprtly, today we see J sticking to his agnda. He’s doing what came do: *TITLE*. He’s prchng Gos and perfrmng mrcls to validate his wrds. J is man/mssn; undrstnds WHY of his life; he’s driven by divine necessity; driven by restless love. The next morn, when J tries get some alone time, **vs. 42b.** Begged him stay; wanted more mircls. What J say? **Vs. 43.** He had move on, so more ppl could hear his athrtv msg & see athrtv actions. When 12 at temple, told parents, **“Didn’t you know I had be in my Fr’s house?” (2:49).** And later told discs, **“The Son/Man must suffer many thngs and be rejected..., and he must be killed and on the 3rd day be raised to life” (Lk 9:22).** He sticks to his agnda. His restless love drives him on; it drives him to the cross, where he’ll proclaim the most athrtv msg and take most athrtv action pssbl to save us! There on cross J’ll suffer/die for us; he’ll stare death in face, endure it, then defeat it, by coming back to life, so that we could have etrn lfe. This is what drives him; this is his mission. And he will let neither an angry mob in Naz nor a cheering crowd in Cap deter him from his mission, agenda.
- So he moves on. **Vs. 43-44.** Kept on *TITLE*. Today we marvel at J’s compssn, and at his pwr. But most imprtly we marvel at his driven-ness. Nothing is more imp to J than proclaiming Gos in word/deed; and nothing is more imp to us than hearing & believing him.

Luke 4:31-44

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

⁴² At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. ⁴³ But he said, “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.” ⁴⁴ And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.