

Luke 4:31-44

Luke 4:40,41 When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on everyone of them and healed them. And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of God." And He, rebuking them did not allow them to speak, for they knew that He was the Christ.

This passage could be entitled, A Day in the Life of Jesus. It begins with Jesus in church, teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum where He casts a demon out of a man who was possessed. After church, He went to the home of Simon Peter where His mother-in-law was sick with a fever and Jesus healed her. She then served them. (Jesus and His disciples no doubt sharing an afternoon meal there is Peter's home.) Then, at sunset, the people started showing up there with many who were sick and demon possessed and Jesus laid hands on everyone of them and healed them and cast out the demons according to the need of each case. The session that started at sunset must have lasted well into the night before the last of the people were helped. Jesus and the disciples slept but then the next morning the people were back wanting more but Jesus was not there as He had risen early to go to a deserted place (no doubt to pray and be with the Father). The people looked for Him until they found Him. They tried to get

Jesus to stay there in Capernaum but Jesus declined to do that saying that His mission was to preach the kingdom of God in the other cities also.

We can make several observations based upon Luke's report of a day in the life of Jesus. First, this day seems typical. Jesus taught the crowds, healed the sick and cast out demons routinely. So there are countless anonymous miracles which Jesus performed for the sake of the people, He remedied every issue that was brought to Him. Jesus did not respond well when, as in Nazareth, the people demanded that He do a miracle. But, if you brought your sick friend to Jesus and asked for His help then the friend was healed every time.

Another emphasis here was the continuing conflict between heaven, represented by Jesus and hell, represented by Satan and his minions. Jesus had defeated Satan in the hour of temptation and now He also exercised authority over the demonic, casting them out of those whom they had possessed in every circumstance. The demons were defeated and the people who had been their prisoners were set free.

Visible or invisible, the conflict between heaven and hell, between God and Satan, continues to this day. One of the many ways in which this is evidenced is in all of the lies that are perpetuated and believed on in the world. Rita and I are reading a book on the teenage brain and the author keeps talking

about the wonders of evolution as she describes how the human brain is designed and functions. How brilliant she is to have studied and learned so much and how dumb she is to believe Satan's lie and give credit to chance and to the dogmas of academia rather than to her Creator.

It is interesting that each of the first three gospels record the healing of Jesus' mother-in-law. The miracle itself seems unremarkable in the context of Jesus' ministry. She had a fever. Jesus healed her and then she served Him. The miracle serves to establish that Peter had a wife, a fact also reported by Paul. This challenges the tendency the church has had to spiritualize celibacy. This issue may have risen to a place of concern already at the time when the gospels were written.

Still another emphasis here is Jesus' habit of seeking solitude away from the crowds as a means of communion with the Father. Jesus sought and received direction from God throughout His ministry. Here, the specific direction Jesus takes is to leave Capernaum and to continue His teaching and work among the many towns in Galilee. Jesus specifically confirmed God's direction in the solitudes of early mornings and all nights alone with God.