

# JESUS AND THE GOOD NEWS

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Lent: Journey to the Cross #3

March 20, 2022

*At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place.  
The people were looking for him and when they came to place where he was,  
they tried to keep him from leaving them.  
But he said, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God  
to other towns also, because this is why I was sent."  
And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.  
Luke 4:42-44*

## **Next step on the journey: Galilee**

<sup>14</sup> Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup> He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

<sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. <sup>17</sup> The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,

<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

<sup>20</sup> Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, <sup>21</sup> and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Luke 4:14-21 (see Mark's version in Mark 1:21-38)

1. This journey is still Spirit led (and notice how much happens on the Sabbath and in solitude)
2. Luke's "preach good news" is one word in Hebrew and in Greek (see Psalm 40:9)
3. Jesus' listeners would have expected the rest of Isaiah 61:2-3
4. Key question: What changes between 4:22 and 4:28?
5. Luke reveals that he is an outsider, but the Holy Spirit makes sure Luke gets the story right!

## **The gospel comes with authority**

<sup>31</sup> Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath began to teach the people. <sup>32</sup> They were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority.

<sup>33</sup> In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an evil spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, <sup>34</sup> “Ha! 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!”

<sup>35</sup> “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.

<sup>36</sup> All the people were amazed and said to each other, “What is this teaching? With authority and power he gives orders to evil spirits and they come out!” <sup>37</sup> And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area.

Luke 4:31-37

1. Jesus continues to reveal his authority over the Principalities and Powers
2. Doug’s question: How can the demons be so right and yet so wrong?
3. Jesus’ authority comes from the source of his teaching, from God not from men (see John 17:1-4)

## **The gospel comes with mercy**

<sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>39</sup> So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

<sup>40</sup> When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. <sup>41</sup> 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 Christ.

<sup>42</sup> 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. <sup>43</sup> But he said, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.” <sup>44</sup> And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Luke 4:38-44 (see Mark’s addition in Mark 1:14-15, 21-34)

1. Jesus exercises the same authority over the natural order that he does over the spiritual order
2. Jesus silences the demons because he controlled the timing of the cross
3. Jesus’ commitment to the gospel keeps him on the journey to the cross

## Jesus and the gospel

1) The gospel before the cross: The gospel points me to the Christ who will come

<sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.  
<sup>15</sup> “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Mark 1

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. <sup>36</sup> But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. <sup>37</sup> All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup> And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. <sup>40</sup> For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 6

2) The gospel after the cross: What am I going to do with Jesus?

*It’s news I’m most proud to proclaim, this extraordinary Message of God’s powerful plan to rescue everyone who trusts him, starting with Jews and then right on to everyone else! God’s way of putting people right shows up in the acts of faith, confirming what Scripture has said all along: “The person in right standing before God by trusting him really lives.”*

Romans 1 in *The Message*, Eugene Peterson’s definition of the gospel

<sup>15</sup> Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. <sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. <sup>17</sup> Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Timothy 1:15

<sup>20</sup> Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 1

This is the Greatest Story not merely because of its infinitely high stakes and the endless wonder of its resolution but also because of its transforming power. How different is the Bible’s story from the dominant one told in the Western world today—that we are accidents, here for no purpose other than what we create for ourselves, living in a world marked by one operative principle: the survival of the strong over the weak? Just as MacIntyre’s response to the incident at the bus stop will be completely determined by what he discovers the story to be about, how we respond to suffering, death, sex, money, and power will be profoundly influenced by whether we understand and believe the story of the Bible about Jesus—or not.”

Tim Keller’s conclusion from “How the Good News about Jesus is Essential”

# Resources for our Lenten journey 2022

Bible.org has some wonderful resources at <https://bible.org/book/Luke>

I. Howard Marshall's Greek commentary is my go to help (Eerdmans, 1978)

J. C. Ryle has an interesting commentary (Sections 22-24 attached below) at <https://www.gracegems.org/Ryle/104.htm>

Martin Luther has an interesting commentary at <https://www.monergism.com/fast-and-temptation-christ-matthew-41-11>

John Piper has a wonderful introduction to the temptation themes and the work of the Spirit at <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/christ-in-combat-defense-by-the-spirit>

Bob Deffinbaugh has two sermons on this text at <https://bible.org/series/luke-gospel-gentiles>.

I appreciate J.C. Ryle's commentary on Luke at <https://www.gracegems.org/Ryle/113.htm>

Spurgeon has a helpful commentary on the Nazareth story at <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/nazareth-or-jesus-rejected-by-his-friends/#flipbook/>

Tim Keller has wonderful summary of the gospel at <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-story-of-the-bible-how-the-good-news-about-jesus-is-essential-tim-kelle/>

The CRC has an



created by the Bible Project

