

“Now when it was day, He departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowd sought Him and came to Him, and tried to keep Him from leaving them; but He said to them, ‘I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent.’ And He was preaching in the synagogues of Galilee.” - Luke 4:42-44

Overview:

Jesus has left Nazareth where they had wanted to throw Him off of a cliff, (Luke 4:29). He now comes into the small fishing village of Capernaum which is about 20 miles NE of Nazareth along the Sea of Galilee. This will become Jesus' headquarters and where Peter and many of Jesus' disciples lived.

Jesus enters the synagogue on the Sabbath and begins teaching the people of Capernaum. They were all astonished at Jesus' teaching because He taught with authority not like the scribes and Pharisees. But there is a problem that becomes an opportunity in the synagogue.

A man with an unclean demon is there and with a loud voice cries out. “Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us I know who You are—the Holy One of God?” It is interesting to notice that the demons never doubted who Jesus was. They knew Jesus was the Holy One of God. Jesus uses this problem as an opportunity and it validated to the people His teachings.

Jesus moving from the synagogue to Peter's house but there is another problem/opportunity. Peter's mother-in-law is sick with a high fever. So they asked Jesus to heal her and immediately she arose and served them. After the Sabbath, people starting arriving with the sick looking for Jesus to heal their friends and loved ones. And Jesus healed all that came and kept the demons from speaking.

We don't know how long Jesus ministered to the people that night but we read in Luke 4:42 that in the morning, Jesus departed and went to a deserted place. In Mark 1:32-38 we learn that it was very early in the morning when Jesus left and He went to pray in a solitary place. While there, Peter and the crowds showed up trying to keep Jesus from leaving them. Just set up a ministry here in Capernaum. But Jesus didn't stay because He knew His purpose and why He was sent. To preach the kingdom of God to the other cities.

References:

Compassion – (Numbers 27:17, Matthew 9:36-38)

Luke 4:32 – People were astonished at His teaching – (Luke 2:48)

Luke 4:36 – The miracle validated Jesus' teaching – (John 10:22-25, John 14:8-11)

Luke 4:38 – Jesus is among close friends – (Mark 1:29)

Luke 4:40 – Jesus is among strangers – (Mark 1:32-33)

Luke 4:42 – The crowd sought Jesus – (Mark 1:36-37)

Luke 4:42 – What was Jesus doing before the crowds arrived? – (Mark 1:35)

Questions:

- * Do you view interruptions as problems or as opportunities from God?
- * How would you describe your daily quiet time and prayer life? Power & Authority or Satan is OK with it?
- * Why didn't Jesus stay in Capernaum?
- * Where did Jesus find His purpose in life? Where are you finding your purpose?
- * Jesus got up early in the morning to pray, what does this teach us about personal quiet time with God?

Additional Study:

Luke 4:32

* Astonished (*ekplesso*) – to force out with a blow, struck with astonishment

* Authority (*exousia*) – the right and ability to perform an action that points toward the power behind it

Luke 4:36

* Amazed (*thambos*) – a state of astonishment due to the sudden and unusual nature of an event

* Power (*dunamis*) – inherent or intrinsic ability

Luke 4:32

* Must (*dei*) – it is necessary, required by God