



friendship  
community church

Book of Luke Series

Luke 4:31-44

Week of March 17-23, 2019

Jesus is Bad News for Evil

*“And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, “Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. And they were all amazed and said to one another, “What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!” And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.”*

Luke 4:31-37 ESV

A man possessed with an unclean demon. Jesus knows it but others may not have known it.

The demon mocks Jesus - Ha! –

(There are many questions in this paragraph – I would leave these as rhetorical.)

Have you ever been guilty of mocking something that God clearly has done? What if God decides to heal someone differently than how we think He should? Has God ever asked you to do something that seems so odd and out of character to the “normal” way of doing things? Do you only trust “your common sense” when God asks you to trust Him in faith?

Then the demon goes to self-protection- “are you going to destroy us?”

Are we blinded or lazy to see the work of demons and the devil in our midst?

Acts of evil are the work of Satan. Evil comes in many forms as well. While we easily see evil in mass killings like the recent one which happened in Christchurch, New Zealand. There are many instances where evil is present but we may be desensitized to the reality of the truth of *Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

Jesus is Bad News for Sickness

*“And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them. Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. And demons also came out of many, crying, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.”*

Luke 4:38-41 ESV

Rebuked the fever - he scolded it and it left her.  
She gets up and begins to serve. She responded to the goodness of Christ but turning and serving others, not just keeping it to herself.

How often do you serve others? What is your motivation for serving? Gratefulness for what Christ has done and is continuing to do or moving on to the next thing on the list to be done? And many others were healed and demons came out of many.

Those demons recognize Jesus as the Son of God.  
Jesus rebukes them and does not allow them to speak.  
God's timing is not yet for Jesus to be revealed as the Son of God to the masses.

Yet we have much evil and sickness in the world.  
How do you think we are to be agents of God's grace in and evil and sick world?

Jesus is Good News for Everyone

*"And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose." And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea."*

Luke 4:42-44 ESV

He got alone. He is getting some rest. But people seek Him out because He can fix them.  
Let's be reminded that Christ is the one who fixes people, not us. We are to encourage and point them to Christ for transformation. He is the Savior, not us. Let's be quick to point people to Christ.

I must preach the good news of the Kingdom of God.  
Jesus did not ultimately come to cast out all the demons and heal the sick but to proclaim the Good News.

Matthew 28 - the Great Commission. What is your role in sharing the Good News to everyone?  
He is for all nations

Some quick reminders –

When evil strikes, call on Jesus (seek Him out).

When sickness strikes, call on Jesus.

When you've been healed (and as you are being healed) . . . Serve Jesus and share the Good News.

God rescues you to go serve and rescue others.  
Who is God calling you to share Him with today?

Take time to share prayer requests and pray together.

Here is a little background story on St. Patrick if you want to share it. For many, St. Patrick's Day is about green beer and pinching others, but the real story of Patricius is far from green beer and pinching. Today we celebrate the life and work of St. Patrick who brought the good news of the Gospel to the Emerald Isle and her people.

Who was this man Patrick, and what were his great accomplishments that so many should celebrate him more than 1500 years after he left this earth? Like St. Nicholas, whose identity has been utterly changed into that of a child's Christmas fantasy, the name of St. Patrick is now more generally associated with parades, "Kiss Me I'm Irish" buttons and green bagels than with the great work of evangelization that was his life's work. But Patrick was, as Nicholas, a real person.

Many details about Patrick are lost to us, but there is agreement on several key facts. Patrick was not Irish; he was born on the island of Britain possibly to a Roman family in about the year 387 AD. Raised in relative comfort, his name in Latin was Patricius. At the age of 16 years, he was kidnapped by a party of marauding Irish raiders, carried to Ireland, and sold into slavery. He was sent by his Irish master to tend sheep on the misty hills of Ulster. Miserable and alone, he turned increasingly to prayer. He served this solitary exile for six years until in a dream God told him to flee from his captivity. Walking a great distance to the coast, he found the ship that would take him back to his family.

The reunion with his family was only temporary. In another dream, he described hearing a call from the people of Ireland to come back to them and walk among them. Patrick understood this as God's call to missionary service to go as a Christian witness to the Irish. In answer to that call, he traveled to France where he undertook studies for the priesthood. He was eventually ordained by St. Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre.

Pope Celestine I eventually entrusted to Patrick the mission of evangelizing the Irish, who, on their isolated island, were a pagan and warlike people having never been conquered by the legions of Rome. Fulfilling his youthful dream, Patrick, now a bishop in the company of several disciples, returned to Ireland in March of the year 433 AD. He was almost 50 years old.

Not a great deal is known of Patrick's preaching, but he and his companions were certainly fearless to approach such a fierce, unfriendly population with faith their only protection. However, one story endures. It is that of his use of the simple three-leafed Irish shamrock to illustrate to the high king at the capital at Tara the nature of the Blessed Trinity - Three Persons in One God. It is significant that the shamrock, the metaphor for God Himself, has come down through the centuries as the symbol of the Irish people.

Thomas Cahill, author of "How the Irish Saved Civilization," points out that one of the most remarkable things about St. Patrick's evangelization of Ireland is that it was peaceful. Christianity had come to many other nations in Europe at the point of a sword, only in the bloody aftermath of Roman conquest. Not so Ireland. In those other cases, the conquered nations had accepted Christianity. But in this case, Christianity had accepted Ireland. The evangelizing work of Patrick and those who helped him and came after him was completely successful.

Another of Cahill's observations is that this universal conversion fortuitously came just in time for Christian Ireland to become the repository for almost 200 years of the culture and

civilization of Christian Europe, which at that very time was falling into the shadows of barbarian invasion. In due course, Christian missionaries came out of Ireland bringing back to Europe that which had lain beyond the reach of the invaders who had destroyed the Roman Empire. It is not by accident that Ireland has been called the Isle of Saints and Scholars.

From the days of St. Patrick, who died on March 17, 461, down to the present, the Irish have been steadfast in their Christian faith. As a nation, they have suffered much through the centuries. Perhaps the greatest sorrow is that so many have been forced to wander far from the island to which Patrick came to bring them spiritual life. It is not surprising then that when the sons and daughters of Ireland celebrate who they are they do so on the feast of their great spiritual benefactor.

Source: *How Now Shall We Live*, Chuck Colson and Nancy Pearcey, *How the Irish Saved Civilization*, Thomas Cahill