

Abide in Me

*Mentored by the Master
Discipleship in Real Time*



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The Week of March 2, 2025

Come and Follow
The War is On
Luke 4:31-37

This is the first recorded confrontation between Jesus and the demonic realm in His public ministry. On the Sabbath, Jesus entered the synagogue in Capernaum and revealed His power in two ways: His teaching possessed authority and He took command over a demon-possessed man which is forced to acknowledge who He is and obey His Word.

This passage marks the beginning of open spiritual warfare in Jesus' ministry. Satan had already encountered Jesus in the wilderness, but now the battle intensifies. The demonic world cannot remain hidden in the presence of the Son of God.

This passage is more than an account of Jesus' power over demons. It is a call to recognize the reality of spiritual warfare and the supremacy of Christ. The war is on, but Jesus has already won.

OBSERVATION *(What does the passage say and how does it say it?)*

Before your group meets, read the passage and perform the following prompts:

- Place a box around all the locations mentioned in this passage.
- Place a † over every reference to Jesus.
- Double underline all the reactions to Jesus.
- Place a lightning bolt ⚡ over how Jesus responded to the unclean spirit and everything He said to it.
- In the left margin of verse 31 write: *Jesus' Authority*.
- In the left margin of verse 34 write: *Demons Know Who Jesus Is*.
- In the left margin of verse 35 write: *Jesus' Power Brings Freedom*.

³¹ And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, ³² and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority.

³³ And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴ "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."

³⁵ 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.

³⁶ 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!"

³⁷ And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

INTERPRETATION *(What does the passage mean?)*

1. What does Luke emphasize about Jesus' authority in this passage? How does it contrast with the authority of the religious leaders?
2. Why does the demon immediately recognize Jesus while the people in the synagogue are still figuring out who He is?
3. List as many things as the entire group can regarding what this passage says about the demonic realm and the work of demons.
4. What does the demon's question in verse 34 ("Have you come to destroy us?") reveal about the nature of spiritual warfare?
5. Why does Jesus silence the demon instead of allowing it to proclaim His identity? What does this teach us about His mission?

APPLICATION *(How does the passage apply to our lives?)*

1. If Jesus' words carried such authority, how should that shape our response to His Word today?

