

Jesus' Mission: Proclaiming the Kingdom of God

February 23, 2025 ▪ Brad Manley

In Jesus we are brought under the _____ of God. (42-44)

In the reign of God spiritual powers are _____. (38-41)

Luke 4:38-44

³⁸ 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. ³⁹ And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

⁴⁰ 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. ⁴¹ 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.

⁴² 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, ⁴³ 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." ⁴⁴ And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: Have you ever experienced a time when you saw someone being healed or helped in a powerful way as a result of answered prayer?

Read & Discuss: Luke 4:38-44

1. It was not uncommon for Jesus to heal the sick. However, in verse 38 Jesus rebuked the fever instead of speaking to the woman. What might this suggest about this woman's illness? Are we able to draw general conclusions from this act? Explain.
2. Though women were forbidden from serving Jewish men at the table, Jesus allows this woman to serve. What does this suggest about Jesus' view of women? In a culture that discounted the value of women, how do you think this act might have been viewed?
3. What do verses 40-41 reveal about both Jesus' character and power? What purpose did healings and casting out demons serve in the ministry of Jesus? Do you think we should expect these to be common today? Why or why not?
4. Even though there were many who wanted and needed help from Jesus, He often sought time away from the crowds to be alone with God, as in verse 42a. What does this tell us about Jesus? What are some lessons we might draw from this for our involvement in ministry?
5. Jesus' reputation for healing and casting out demons quickly attracted a large following (vv. 40-41) of people who did not want Him to leave the region (v. 42b). Why would they want Jesus to stay? Are there ways people today want to "use" Jesus that conflict with His mission? Explain. How can we make sure we align our expectations and desires with Jesus' mission rather than our own?
6. Jesus challenged the people's perspective by explaining why He could not remain with them (v. 43). How would you put Jesus' explanation in your own words? What do you think Jesus meant by referring to "the good news of the kingdom of God"? (See also *Luke 8:1; 9:2, 60; Acts 28:31*)

Apply: Throughout this passage, we see Jesus involved in performing acts of compassion, spending time with God, and proclaiming the Gospel. How should we seek to appropriately incorporate all of this in our lives in ways that align with Jesus' mission and not our own?

Pray: Pray that God would continue to grow our faith in Christ and that we would continually seek to align our lives with Christ's mission rather than expect Him to align with our desires.