

Reflection Questions: The Power and Authority of Jesus

For the message, "The Power and Authority of Jesus" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on February 17, 2019

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to ask God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Luke 4:31-44

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.

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.

A summary of the message: In the life and ministry of Jesus, we get a picture of what happens when God's promised Kingdom comes near: evil is vanquished, illnesses healed, and wholeness restored. In other words, we get a preview in the life of Jesus what will take place when the Kingdom of God comes in all its fulness with all its power and all its authority.

Key Quotes:

- 1 John 3:8, "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil."

Bottom Line:

- The Kingdom of God is the kind reign of God. We were meant to live under the kind rule of our Creator and none other. But with our participation in the rebellion of the human race against its Creator, we have come under the tyranny of the evil one. But Jesus has come to destroy the works of the evil one. This is the "breaking news" (i.e., the gospel) that Jesus was compelled to proclaim everywhere he went. His miracles were simply visual illustrations of it.

Let's get started...

- What initially grabs your attention in this text? How are you challenged, convicted, encouraged, or surprised by this text? What questions or thoughts arise as you reflect on what its saying?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- How does this text help me to understand the good news of Jesus? What does this text teach me about reality and the mission of Jesus? What do you find easy to grasp about this? What do you find difficult to grasp about this?
- How does this text help us to understand our personal stories in the light of God's story of redemption?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- Jesus was compelled to preach a certain message: "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God...; for I was sent for this purpose." If the "kingdom of God" is the kind reign of God breaking into this world in the person of Jesus, what kind of questions does this prompt for you?
- Jesus told his disciples to pray like this, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven..." What does this teach us about the kind of desires Jesus wants us to have? Do you find it easy or difficult to pray for God's coming kingdom?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- How does this passage serve as an invitation to the world to join God's mission? What kind of me does God want for his mission?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

- _____
- _____
- _____