

Encountering Jesus

Luke 4:31-41

Welcome to this gathering of Encountering Jesus through the Gospel of Luke. This group engagement is designed to provide a process of getting to know both one another...and Christ together. As noted in previous week, the Scriptures are a "living Word" or testimony...centered around the living Christ...so when we encounter Jesus through the Scriptures, we encounter not only what "was" ...but what "is."

Getting to know one another...

If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

Centering...

Take a quiet moment to center your soul on God. Take a minute for all those participating to close their eyes... take a deep breath...and prayerfully listen as one member reads the following two texts... slowly ...three times.

Habakkuk 3:19 - The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights.

Exploring...

Read Luke 4:31- 41 (Could have read aloud, by one or two individuals)

³¹ Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath began to teach the people. ³² They were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority. ³³ In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an evil spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, ³⁴ "Ha! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are--the Holy One of God!" ³⁵ "Be quiet!" Jesus said sternly. "Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him. ³⁶ All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What is this teaching? With authority and power he gives orders to evil spirits and they come out!" ³⁷ And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area. ³⁸ Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. ³⁹ So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them. ⁴⁰ When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. ⁴¹ Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Christ.

1. What first set Jesus apart as described in verse 32?

2. How might this speak to your own relationship to truth and authority?

3. Why did the possessed man react in Jesus' presence? Why would he question if Jesus had come to "destroy us"?

** 4. Why would Jesus not want the people to be told he was the Messiah? (Note: There may be different reasons involved. The most expanded case of Jesus instructing not to have his Messianic identity spread, is found in Mark 1:40-45, which may be helpful to read if time allows.)*

5. Have you ever seen or experienced evil spirits? What was it like? If such was engaged with the authority of Christ, describe that experience. (Depending on the extent of experience within the individuals in the group, this could become a discussion more extended than time allows and fits the focus of this week. So best not to expound on various views of spiritual warfare at his time.)

6. Read Luke 9:1-2 and Luke 10:17. What type of authority do we have? How could our lives change if we embrace this authority?

7. What does this text reveal about authority?

** This question is best considered OPTIONAL. It may be best to skip if the group is large or short on time, perhaps having had extensive discussion on a previous question.*