



The DAILY JESUS NEWS #054

Jesus' Great Galilean Ministry

Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee
Jesus Shakes Capernaum With a Powerful Day of Ministry
MK 1.21-34 (Parallel texts: MT 8.14-16; LK 4.31B-42)

=====

Miracle 4: In the morning...

21 They went into Capernaum. When the Sabbath came, Jesus went straight into the synagogue and began to teach. 22 The people were in a state of continual amazement at his teaching; he was teaching them as one who possessed authority, unlike the manner of the teachers of the law.

23 Just then, a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, 24 "What is there between us and you, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

25 Jesus rebuked the spirit, saying, *"I command you to be silenced! You come out of him!"*

26 The impure spirit shook the man violently, ^Land when he had thrown him down in the midst of everybody, ^Mcame out of him with a massive scream, ^Lhaving done him no harm.

27 ^MThe people were all so amazed that they continued asking each other, "What is this? A new teaching, and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him." 28 The news about Jesus spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

Miracle 5: That afternoon, About 1:00 PM

29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. 30 Simon's mother-in-law had been laid out in bed with a raging fever, so they immediately told Jesus about her. 31 Having come near to the bed, He took hold of her hand firmly and raised her up. The fever left her instantly, and she began waiting on them.

That night... many healing miracles

32 That evening after the sun had set, the people started bringing all the sick and demon-possessed people to Jesus. 33 The whole town gathered outside the door, 34 and Jesus healed many people who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, ^{MT}so that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, "He himself took our infirmities and bore our diseases." (Isaiah 53.4)

^MBut Jesus would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

=====

NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*.

| CONTEXT DIGEST | |
|----------------------|--|
| Location | Capernaum |
| Time | August, when Jesus was 31 (Month 8) |
| Stage of Jesus' Life | Stage IV: His Great Galilean Ministry |
| Chapter 10 | Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee |
| Section #054 | Jesus Shakes Capernaum With a Powerful Day of Ministry |

The sixth and final event in the "beginning" of Jesus' Galilean ministry was a representative day of ministry that shook the city to its foundations, with Jesus performing miracles #3 and #4, and a host of uncounted other miracles as well. It was a day to remember forever.

It is interesting to remember that Jesus created the world in a "week" of seven days. He began his disciple-making ministry with a "week" of calling and revealing himself to his first five disciples, climaxed by his first miracle on the final day. Now, instead of a "week," the Synoptic gospel writers chose to feature one 24 hour period in Jesus' life, which served as a representative example of how he spent every day in Galilee. Therefore, this "day" was crucial for understanding Jesus' daily life-style. What did he do with his 24 hours?

On the first Saturday (Sabbath) since moving to Capernaum, Jesus began the morning with an eye-popping, double revelation of his authority in the Capernaum synagogue. First, Jesus taught with an authority that none of the people had ever witnessed before. Mark's language describes the assembled crowd in non-stop, jaw-dropping wonder the whole time Jesus was teaching. What was so unique about Jesus' message?

The Old Testament scholars and teachers of Jesus' day were always quoting other teachers, who quoted other Rabbis, who were quoting other former teachers in turn. No one read the Bible, and taught from it directly, as Jesus did. Jesus' confidence and authority in giving his authoritative understanding of the message of the Scriptures was boldness on a level they had never dreamed possible, much less experienced before. But there was more.

Miracle #3. The presence of a demon-possessed man in the synagogue caused Jesus to further demonstrate his authority by casting out the demon effortlessly, with just a word. Once again, the people had never heard of anybody having such awesome power before, and they were simply dumbfounded by it. Even the demons obeyed Jesus' authority! The man was restored to a normal life as a result—he was "saved," or made whole again.

Jesus had turned their world upside down in one morning with the authority of what he said (the demon exorcism) and how he said it (his authoritative interpretation of Scripture). When people left the synagogue they started telling everyone they saw about what Jesus had said and done, and the good news about him swept through the entire town of Capernaum in just a few hours, and surged out into all the surrounding regions in a few days.

Miracle #4. After leaving the synagogue Jesus went to Peter's house in the afternoon to "rest," as the Law prescribed. Peter's mother-in-law was seriously ill. Mark's description indicates that she had been

laid out on her bed for several days with a high fever that would not let her even stand up. She had not eaten and was weakening by the hour.

Jesus took a firm hold on her hand, and God's power surged through him into her, instantly ending the fever by healing its underlying cause. She rose up in full strength to immediately begin serving Jesus and the house full of people. The word that Mark used to describe Jesus "raising her up" is the standard word used for Jesus' own resurrection in the New Testament. This instantaneous healing was of such magnitude that it pictured his own rise from the dead! Even still, the day of ministry was far from over.

Uncounted, multiple miracles. During the afternoon, while Jesus raised up Peter's mother-in-law and then rested, the news about what Jesus had done in the synagogue that morning was flying around town. Every sick, handicapped, and demonized person realized that this was their chance to escape their own prison of pain. In addition, friends and relatives of such people also made plans to take their hurting loved ones to Jesus the moment the Sabbath ended—at sunset.

As the sun dropped under the horizon, a rush of people seeking ministry arrived at the door, and it continued to build for hours into the night as people who lived farther away continued to arrive. Jesus ministered healing of every disease and malady, and deliverance from demons deep into the night. No one was turned away. There was unspeakably great rejoicing in Capernaum that night!

Note: We have seen four miracles of Jesus (out of 35) so far in the DJN. These have included the three major types of miracles in Jesus ministry: Nature Miracles (#1, water into wine), Healing Miracles (#2, healing of royal official's son with a word), and Exorcism Healings (#3, demon-possessed man in Capernaum Synagogue).

A single day of ministry with Jesus in Galilee was mind-boggling to all who experienced it. However, the point is not how busy this day was for Jesus. It was a day of "rest," when he was restricted from public ministry for the entire afternoon. As we continue through his life it becomes obvious very quickly that this was actually a fairly "light" day for him. Jesus typically ministered for 12 to 16 hours a day!

(Our 24 hours of observation of Jesus' "day" will continue into the next DJN, describing the early morning hours on Sunday.)

APPLICATION:

Many of us have seen some great days of ministry at church, or at home. But none of us have witnessed what happened on the first Sabbath of Jesus' ministry in Capernaum. The evidence that he was the Messiah was overwhelming. His love, grace, and compassion upon those who had no qualification to receive his ministry was abundant. His power to heal and set free was magnificent. How radiant was his glory!

The Sabbath was a day dedicated to worship. The good news about what Jesus did on this Sabbath in Capernaum was written down for us, so that we would engage in ceaseless worship of him. Every day is the "Sabbath" for all of us who cease from doing our own works in our own strength, and rest ourselves fully in reliance upon him.

"Jesus Christ is the same...yesterday, today, and forever." Heb. 13.7 That is why we must trust fully in him as we see him in the gospels—for he is still the same, and alive in us today. Hallelujah—what a Savior!