

Nuggets and Gems from the Bible

THE
MAN-SAVIOR'S
FOURFOLD
COMMISSION

WITNESS LEE

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Living Stream Ministry

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In this booklet we shall consider [Luke 4:31-44](#). These verses are in the third major section of the Gospel of Luke. The first section is the introduction ([1:1-4](#)), and the second concerns the preparation of the Man-Savior in His humanity with His divinity ([1:5—4:13](#)). The third section, which is quite lengthy, covers the ministry of the Man-Savior in His human virtues with His divine attributes ([4:14—19:27](#)). In [4:14—9:50](#) we have the ministry of the Man-Savior in Galilee. Then from [9:51—19:27](#) we have a record of His ministry from Galilee to Jerusalem.

THE MAN-SAVIOR'S HUMAN VIRTUES AND DIVINE ATTRIBUTES

The ministry of the Man-Savior was in His human virtues with His divine attributes. The preparation of the Man-Savior was in His humanity with His divinity. The conception, birth, and growth of the Man-Savior were all in His

humanity with His divinity. After undergoing a full preparation, He began to minister. Like His preparation, His ministry was in His humanity with His divinity. In particular, His ministry was not only in His humanity, but in His human virtues, and not only with His divinity, but also with His divine attributes. The Man-Savior ministered in His human virtues with His divine attributes.

CARRYING OUT HIS FOURFOLD COMMISSION

In [4:31-44](#) the Man-Savior carried out His fourfold commission. This commission included teaching ([vv. 31-32](#)), casting out demons ([vv. 33-37, 41](#)), healing diseases ([vv. 38-40](#)), and preaching the good news of the kingdom of God ([vv. 42-44](#)). When the crowds tried to detain the Lord Jesus, He said, “I must bring good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this I was sent” ([v. 43](#)). As in [verse 18](#), the Greek word translated “bring good news” is *euaggelizo*. This word means evangelize, to announce good news, to declare (bring) glad tidings, to preach the gospel. Hence, to bring good news of the kingdom of God is to preach the kingdom of God as the gospel, the good news.

The kingdom of God is the Savior ([Luke 17:21](#)) as the seed of life, sown into His believers, God's chosen people ([Mark 4:3, 26](#)), and developing into a realm which God may rule as His kingdom in His divine life. Its entrance is regeneration ([John 3:5](#)), and its development is the believers' growth in the divine life ([2 Pet. 1:3-11](#)). It is the church life today, in which the faithful believers live ([Rom. 14:17](#)), and it will develop into the coming kingdom as an inheritance reward ([Gal. 5:21](#); [Eph. 5:5](#)) to the overcoming saints in the millennium ([Rev. 20:4, 6](#)). Eventually, it will consummate in the New Jerusalem as the eternal kingdom of God, an eternal realm of the eternal blessing of God's eternal life for all God's redeemed to enjoy in the new heaven and new earth for eternity ([Rev. 21:1-4](#); [22:1-5, 14](#)). Such a kingdom, the kingdom of God, is what the Savior preached in [Luke 4](#) as the gospel, the good news.

TEACHING

[Verse 31 of chapter four](#) says that He came down to Capernaum and was teaching on the Sabbaths. His teaching released the word of light to enlighten those in the darkness of death

([Matt. 4:12-16](#)) so that they might receive the light of life ([John 1:4](#)).

[Luke 4:32](#) says that the people “were astounded at His teaching, because His word was with authority.” As the One authorized by God, the Lord Jesus taught realities whereas the scribes taught vain knowledge without authority or power. The Man-Savior had not only spiritual power to subdue people, but divine authority to subject them to the divine ruling.

CASTING OUT DEMONS

In [4:33-36](#) we have an account of the Lord’s casting out of a demon. In [verse 33](#) we are told that a man in the synagogue had a spirit of an unclean demon. This kind of spirit is different from a fallen angel. A demon is one of the spirits of the living creatures who lived in the preadamic age and were judged by God when they joined Satan’s rebellion (see *Life-study of Genesis*, Message 2). The fallen angels work with Satan in the air ([Eph. 2:2](#); [6:11-12](#)), and these demons, the unclean spirits, move with him on the earth. Both act evilly upon man for the kingdom of Satan. A demon’s possession of a person signifies Satan’s usurpation of man, whom God created for His purpose. In His ministry the Man-Savior cast

out demons from possessed people so that they might be delivered from Satan's bondage ([Luke 13:16](#)), out of Satan's authority of darkness ([Acts 26:18](#); [Col. 1:13](#)), into God's kingdom.

In [Luke 4:34](#) the demon said, "Ah! What do we have to do with You, Jesus, Nazarene? Did You come to destroy us? I know You, who You are, the Holy One of God!" "Ah!" is an interjection of anger or dismay. The Greek word may be translated, "Let us alone." The Greek words rendered, "What do we have to do with You?" literally mean, "What to us and to You?" This is a Hebrew idiom.

[Verse 35](#) says, "And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Be quiet and come out from him! And throwing him down in the midst, the demon came out from him without harming him at all." Literally, the Greek word rendered "quiet" means muzzled.

After the Lord cast out the demon, "amazement came upon all, and they spoke to one another, saying, What is this word? For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out" ([v. 36](#)). Here we see that the Man-Savior has both authority and power to cast out demons. For His ministry He

had divine authority not only to teach people, but also to cast out demons.

HEALING

In [4:38 and 39](#) we have the record of the Lord's healing of Simon's mother-in-law, who had been seized with a high fever. This fever may signify a person's unbridled temper, abnormal and intemperate.

[Luke 4:40](#) says, "And when the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases, brought them to Him; and laying His hands on each one of them, He healed them." Sickness is an issue of sin and a sign of man's abnormal condition before God because of sin. Therefore, in His ministry the Man-Savior healed the sick condition of people both physically and spiritually in order to restore them to normal so that they might serve Him.

PREACHING

In addition to teaching, casting out demons, and healing the sick, the Lord was also "preaching in the synagogues of Judea" ([4:44](#)). The Man-Savior's preaching was to announce God's glad tidings to miserable people in bondage ([v. 43](#)). His teaching enlightened the ignorant ones in

darkness with the divine light of the truth. His preaching implied teaching, and His teaching implied preaching.

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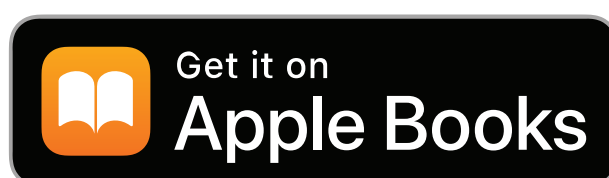
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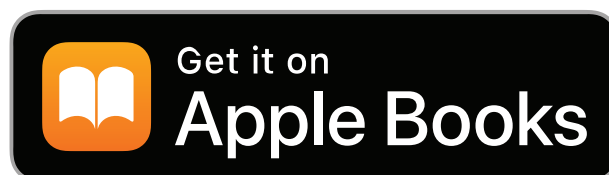
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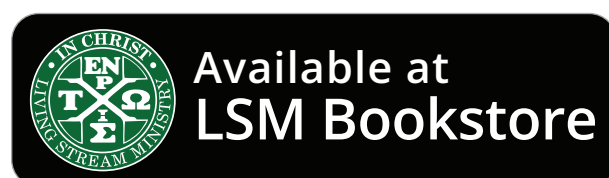
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