

Why Jesus Came

Luke 4:31-44



Challenges in Life

Not very hard and not very critical

Very hard and not very critical

Critical but not very hard

Critical and very hard → What do we do? What do we tell ourselves and others?

God's Work

"Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." Genesis 1:2

God gave it form, filled it with life, and gave light

Satan's Work

Satan pursues disorder, death, and darkness

"I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone." Jeremiah 4:23

God's Work

So God sent the Messiah

The Son of God, who became a human being named Jesus

What was it like?

People's Vulnerability

In the first century:

Bad illnesses

Evil spirits / demons

Today?

It depends upon context

Luke 4:31-44

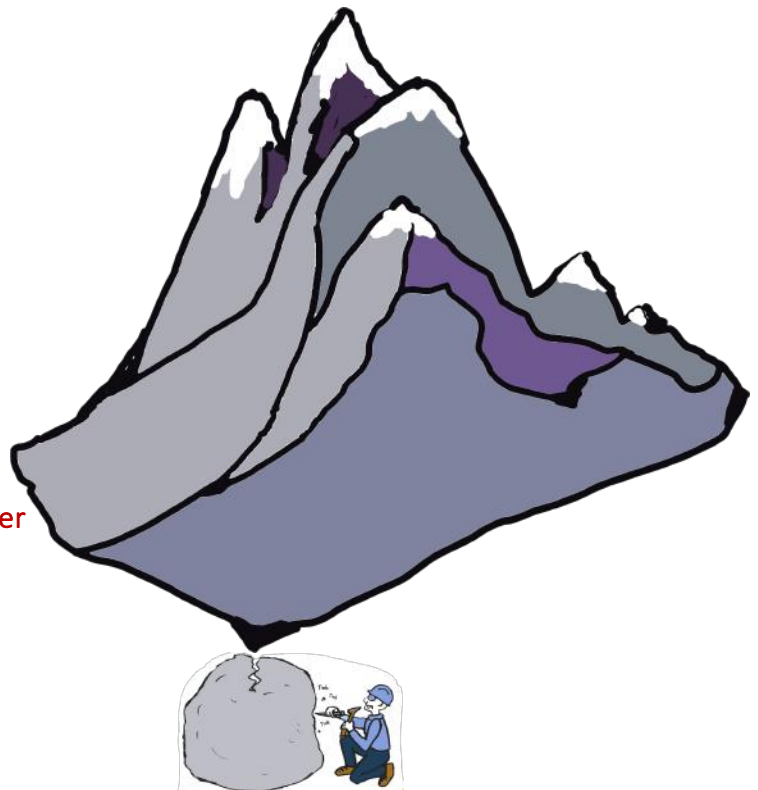
31-32:

33-37: **Amazing power over demons!**

38-39: **Amazing power over sickness!**

40-41: **Amazing power over sickness and demons!**

42-44: **Mission from God: proclaim all over with power the Good News of the kingdom of God**



The Big Idea

God sent His Son

to authoritatively proclaim deliverance

from all evil powers

Among their greatest troubles: bad illness, demon possession, Jesus set people free by just speaking a word!

It is the best Good News!

Critical and very hard problems

Sometimes we work very hard

Sometimes we give up

Jesus is the unmatched power over the things that are beyond us!

In Luke 4:13, Jesus successfully resisted all the devil's attacks

Then He began setting the oppressed free

Jesus said: "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder." Luke 11:21-22

Jesus brought forgiveness...and so much more!

Satan works to bring chaos, death, and darkness

Other forces do the same

Jesus sets people free by just speaking a word!

3D Gospel

Guilt/innocence → Global West

requires forgiveness

Jesus: sacrifice for forgiveness of sins

Shame/honor → Global East

requires restoration

Jesus: restore relationship with God & people

Vulnerability/power → Global South

requires a powerful hero

Jesus: rescue from demons, powers, & sickness

Application

Rejoice in the victory and power of Jesus over every evil power

He came to rescue us from powers that are too great for us, including demons

By His powerful Word!

Over all the works of evil

No matter what their source is

He always brings good

He often uses trouble for good

Still, His power and victory are always real

As sent ones, join His mission in the power of the Spirit

"Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.'" John 20:21

Bring order, life, and light

Bring forgiveness, restoration, and rescue

Challenges in Life

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." Luke 22:42

We proclaim that Jesus came with unmatched power to deliver from sin, death, division, and evil

And we join in His work with the gifts He gives

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. What were you raised to believe about evil spirits and demons?
2. What is your stated view today? What is the actual view that you live by?
3. How have you seen or experienced the power of Jesus over evil spirits, and over illness?
4. How might your view of demons and illness need to change to be more in line with Jesus? How should that change affect your life?
5. What would it look like to join this work of Jesus to bring freedom to the oppressed and recovery to the blind?

Conversation starters

What is your view of evil in the world? Where does it come from? What can be done about it?