

## Supercharge Your Faith (part 3)

Two weeks ago, we read the famous Gospel story of the “woman with issue of blood”. She was someone who touched Jesus and out of that exchange, healing power invaded her life. Jesus told her these words: “*Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace and be healed of your affliction*” (Mark 5:25-34)

**This is the year for you to be well, in peace and to be healed!**

As we saw, Jesus said to the woman: “*your faith has made you well*”. That is why we need more of it. More faith. But how do we get more faith to see God do more in our lives? How does that happen? – the same way it happened to that woman: “*when she heard about Jesus*”!

Let us hear more about Jesus then. Faith comes by hearing. Nothing will supercharge your faith for 2023 more than hearing about Jesus - and that is what we are going to do again today:

### Opening Text: Luke 4:31-42

What was it really like to be around Jesus? Have you ever thought about that? Well, we have a report of that, right here in this passage.

#### 1. Clearly being *around Jesus* and being *around religion* were not the same thing

People saw the difference. This wasn't a normal synagogue service, this was not 'business as usual'. Religion couldn't produce the authority Jesus carried, the teaching that He brought and the power that He displayed.

People who had been around religion could tell the difference and they were amazed.

**Luke 5:26** - *And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, “We have seen strange things today!”*

**Mark 2:12** – *“<sup>2</sup> Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!””*

#### 2. Clearly, His message was different

<sup>32</sup> *And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority.*

**Matthew 7:29** - *for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

<sup>36</sup> *Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, “What a word this is!”*

**John 7:46b** – *“No man ever spoke like this Man!”*

**John 6:63** - *The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*

**3. Clearly, even demonic beings acknowledged the power of the presence of Jesus**

a) Religion outside Jesus never seemed to disturb demons: there was a man in the synagogue with an unclean spirit. It is amazing that such a thing as an unclean spirit could have remained undetected, undisturbed, undealt with, and uncontested until the day Jesus came into that synagogue. How was he allowed to be there?

b) **Luke 13:10- 13, 16** <sup>10</sup> *Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. <sup>11</sup> And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. <sup>12</sup> But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, “Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.” <sup>13</sup> And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.*

<sup>16</sup> *So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?”*

This woman and that spirit of infirmity were in the synagogue. Jesus even knew how long: 18 years!

18 years unchallenged, undetected, undisturbed, undealt with, and uncontested

I wonder sometimes how much goes undetected and undealt with in people’s lives and how everyone needs and encounter with Jesus!

Jesus exposed what religion tolerated.

c) Jesus is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

**John 9:4-5** - *<sup>4</sup> I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*

Jesus is the ‘floodlight of heaven’ so that sickness, evil and darkness will have nowhere to hide anymore!

**2 Thessalonians 2:8** speaks about the “*brightness of His coming*” – one day, at the coming of Jesus, the enemy will be destroyed by His brightness.

d) The unclean spirit inside that man couldn’t stand the presence of Jesus and cried out in desperation. That didn’t happen around religion, only around Jesus!

**4. Clearly, He wasn’t just a man from Nazareth but the Holy One from God**

*34 ... What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!*

The devil knew that Jesus wasn't just a common man from a common town like Nazareth. No. He was the uncommon, unique Holy One of God – from heaven.

*35 But Jesus **rebuked** him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him in their midst, it came out of him and did not hurt him. 36 Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, “What a word this is! For with **authority and power** He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out.”*

*Exousia plus Dunamis: what a mighty combination!*

- a) **Authority** is the right to be obeyed. **Power** is the ability to enforce that right! Jesus had both.
- b) Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit. In this passage, we see that word ‘rebuke’ 3 times.

In the Gospels, Jesus rebuked demons, the wind, the seas, a fig tree, and sickness. In today's passage, Jesus rebuked demons and then He rebuked the fever that Peter's mother-in-law had.

The rebuke of Jesus worked in both instances: demons and sickness. It is time we treat sickness like an enemy. Let's rebuke it, never accommodate it.

**Luke 17:5-6** - *5 And the apostles said to the Lord, “**Increase our faith.**” 6 So the Lord said, “If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can **say** to this mulberry tree, ‘Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,’ and **it would obey you.**”*

So, what is it really like to be around Jesus?

1. Clearly it is not the same as being around man-made religion
2. His message is clearly different! It is life changing, it is spirit and life, it has power and authority
3. Being around Jesus is like coming to the light where darkness is dispelled, evil exposed and defeated
4. It is standing in the presence of an uncommon Saviour, the presence of the Holy One of God

### **One concluding thought**

*38 Now He arose from the synagogue and entered Simon's house. But Simon's wife's mother was sick with a high fever, and they made request of Him concerning her. 39 So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them.*

Jesus goes from a public meeting to a private home, from the synagogue to Peter's house. You can take Jesus home with you. You can take this same power and authority

home with you. Jesus doesn't just do miracles in the public settings and the big events, but He does it in homes, in families, in individuals' lives.

In fact, He wants to go home with you today. Will you invite Him to come. If you do, He will and you will never be the same again.