

What Is this Word?

Sermon Series: Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 4:31-37



Big Idea

Christ uses the authority and power of His word to heal the fallen race of man.

(1) Jesus' Word Is Authoritative (vv. 31-32)

Jesus starts to evidence His authority here in Capernaum in the way He's teaching them in their synagogue. The scribes in Jesus' day would try to validate their interpretation of the OT by grounding it in the thoughts of great teachers that came before them. But Jesus, it seems, would handle the text on His own terms. He's not talking like an interpreter of the Law; He's talking like the Author of the Law. He's not talking like a man; He's talking like God!

(2) Jesus' Word Is Powerful (vv. 33-35)

With Jesus word and the deed are one. His word is not just the way He communicates His thoughts, it's the way He accomplishes His will. He uses His word not just to preach the kingdom of God but to manifest it. He speaks and it happens. In the synagogue, Jesus both silences and evacuates the demon from this man with but a word from His mouth!

(3) Jesus' Word Is Healing (v. 36)

Jesus is unlike any King the world has ever seen. He has more authority and power than the whole history of kings combined, but he uses it, not to destroy, but to bless, redeem, and heal. He speaks a word and in one and the same moment: the oppressors go running off, and the oppressed come running home.

(1) Christ's Word Can Work without Faith

(2) Christ's Word Can Clean the Unclean

In the end, Jesus will be driven out in your place. The rejection scene in Nazareth is but a foreshadow of Calvary, where He will not pass through the midst of the mob, but surrender to them. And they will drive Him out of their city where they will kill Him like an unclean thing, like a sinner—all of our filth upon Him. And He will go through with all of this, so that He can now come to His Bride in this room this morning, lift her up from the dirt, and "cleanse . . . her by the washing of water with the word" (Eph 5:26).

Reflection Questions



- Have you ever been deeply rejected? How did you handle it? Did you burn with anger or dissolve into depression? Were you able to turn away from yourself towards others in love? Why or why not?
- Does Jesus' word have authority in your life? Where do you go for the final word on the issues you face? Who wins when God's word says one thing but your flesh, your peers, and your culture say another? Where is this the most difficult for you?
- Do we believe that Jesus' word works? Do we expect His word to change things? Do we approach Him like that Centurion in Luke 7:7? Why or why not?
- When has God brought blessing to you because of another's faith?