

“What’s Broken Jesus Can Fix”

Text: Luke 4:31-44

We have a saying: “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it!” It is somewhat similar to: “Don’t re-event the wheel” If something is established and working there is no need to change it. When it comes to our world, this is not the case. Since the Fall (Genesis 3) there have been problems. We live in a broken world, with many troubles that face people daily in terms of personal problems, economic challenges and natural disasters. There is good news-God has broken into this world through his Son Jesus Christ providing for our greatest needs through the Messiah and Savior of the world.

It’s all about the authority of God’s word. The people of Nazareth balked at the idea of Jesus claiming to be the Messiah. How could this young man who grew up before their eyes be who he claimed to be? Right after his escape from the angry congregation the events of our Gospel lesson for today occur. He healed the sick and cast out demons and did it by the power of his word. Many certainly believed, yet those who should have did not.

Several chapters later, the Roman Centurion gives us a good example of what we should do with Jesus’ claims and the power of his word. The people thought Jesus owed him a favor for what he had done. He felt totally undeserving and unworthy. Explaining how he worked obeying commands and giving them he said to Jesus, “Say the word and my servant will be healed.” (Luke 7:7) He knew who Jesus was and what he could do. God’s promised Savior has come and we know what it means to be-

WHAT'S BROKEN JESUS CAN FIX

I. His word has great power

II. He brings God's salvation to us

I.

A.1. There was a very definite quality to the teaching of Jesus. The other teachers of the day were not very definitive in what they said. Perhaps it was like our world of today. St. Luke tells us on several occasions in our text that the people were in amazement because Jesus taught with authority.

Other teachers quoted human authorities to back up what they said. There was none of that with Jesus because his authority came directly from God. Perhaps you have seen the bumper sticker that says, "Question Authority". It states that I am not subject to anyone else; I may do as I please. Our age says, "If I haven't experienced it, then it can't be true." The people of Capernaum didn't believe that for they were in amazement at this teaching of Jesus.

2. At the end of Jesus' earthly ministry, he told his disciples, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." (Matthew 28:18) This was for a group of disciples who were very fearful but were about to undertake the greatest mission in the history of the world. There could be no question about Jesus asking them what they had to do.

While some people may have questioned who Jesus was and whether he had the authority to do what he did, the demons didn't. They responded, "What do you want with us Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" The people were amazed at the teaching of Jesus, yet they also listened to him. The evil spirits may have attempted to control Jesus

with their response, yet Jesus had ultimate authority on that day and forever.

B.1. The people said of this new teaching, “What is this teaching? With authority and power he gives orders to evil spirits and they come out.” As we today observe these events of long ago, it is a comfort for us to know that the word of Jesus has power over evil. We look around us in our community, state, and world and can see much around us. We may even be fearful, but there is no reason that feeling on our part given what Jesus has accomplished for us.

2. As Jesus was confronted by the demon he told him to be quiet and to come out of the man. This miracle is really two-fold. The demon does leave the man, but in the process of being cast out, no harm comes to the man. It shows us that God is with us in all circumstances. We have great comfort when confronted by various problems in the all-powerful word of Jesus that comes from God’s authority and announces his forgiveness and salvation to us because of what Jesus has done for us.

II.

A.1. It is clear from the people of Capernaum that Jesus is who he says that he is. This is seen not only in his word, but also in his actions. The second part of our text involves the healing of St. Peter’s mother-in-law. St. Luke, the doctor, fills in the medical details. She had a very high fever. Jesus leaned over her bed and he rebuked her fever and it left her. Not only was her fever gone, but also she was cured in such a way that she was able to get up and serve Jesus and those present.

We live in a marvelous medical age. We have many miracle cures with others on the way, no doubt. While we may rightly give thanks for these cures, it is important for us to remember who really is behind the wonders of

modern medicine, but the power of Jesus and his word. This is seen when people get better even though the medical prognosis may not be very good. Doctors know, nurses know, and you know how that happens.

2. After the healing of Peter's mother-in-law, there were others who came for healing by the word of Jesus. The commentator Lenski referred to this as a wonderful night. Once again, not only those who were ill, but those who were demon possessed came to Jesus. The demons acknowledged Jesus as "the Son of God". Jesus would not allow them to speak. Jesus did this because he wanted the work to speak for itself and did not want to give play to the many false notions regarding the Messiah that were prevalent at that time. Knowing someone by name also indicated control, and we know who is in control and who will be victorious.

B.1. After all that had happened, people wanted Jesus to remain in the area. The miracles that Jesus performed were important in the lives of people. They show Jesus compassion for people. There is a bigger picture to be seen however. Miracles proved who Jesus was. Old Testament believers knew what signs would accompany the coming of the Messiah. They showed the word of Jesus for what it was.

Jesus understood what his purpose was: "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." Jesus was sent into the world to accomplish our salvation with his perfect life and death. He also proclaimed that life and promise of God so that people knew that God's presence and promises had come to live among them.

2. The kingdom of God exists in the world through his creation, in the church through his word and sacraments, and in heaven, which is the goal of all who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior. Jesus has come to bring all of those to

bear in our lives. Because of his word and promise we know the comfort of living in his presence. Amen.