



NOTES FOR FURTHER STUDY

Supplemental Texts

Isa. 9:1-7; 52:7-10; 53:4-6; Jer. 23:5-8; 33:14-18, 25-26; Matt. 3:2; 4:23; 8:14-17; Mark 1:15, 29-39; 5:23; 10:45; Luke 1:35; 2:49; 3:22; 4:5-9, 23; 5:1-11, 16, 29-30; 6:13-14; 8:1; 9:1-2, 21-23, 30-31, 34-36, 60; 10:40; 11:7-20; 12:2, 31-34, 37; 13:18-20; 16:16; 17:8; 22:26-27; John 18:36-37; Acts 8:12; Rom. 8:18-25; 1 Cor. 15:50-58

Study Summary

In this passage Luke continues to relate the ministry of Jesus in Capernaum. We see Jesus healing the sick and broken, eating with friends and sinners, praying in solitary places, and, most centrally, preaching about the good news of the Kingdom of God. Jesus faces down the darkness of the fallen human condition and shows His victory over the devil, sin, and death, as He spreads the Kingdom of God throughout the crumbling kingdoms of this world through His words and deeds. His mighty power, displayed for all to see, foreshadow the final victory of God's Kingdom that was dealt at the cross, when Jesus took upon Himself all the sin and brokenness of this fallen world.

Historical & Theological Background

Theological: Jesus spent much of His earthly ministry preaching and His main topic was the Kingdom of God. While many of the Israelites were looking forward to the establishment of an earthly king through which God would assert His power over the nations, Jesus revealed that the Kingdom is "God's rule in action," a whole new sphere created by God's salvific work in the lives of men and women. Jesus taught that in Him the Kingdom has come, seen in "the authority with which He combated evil." His acts of healing were not "interruptions of causal connections within natural law, but" "manifestations of the Kingdom of God." In His preaching and miracles, Jesus was restoring creation, setting things right, loosing the bonds of Satan, and pointing forward to His final victory on the cross, which will be consummated when He returns to establish His Kingdom in its fullness. In this sense there is a present and future reality to the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom is present in the continued activities of the Savior and His people throughout the world in and by the Spirit. Yet, there remains a final establishment of God's Kingdom in the future when Christ's returns to make all things new and unite heaven and earth.

DISCUSSION PRIMER

Pieces of this story are also found in Matthew and Mark. Take some time to read the passage in Luke and then compare it to the same events in Matthew (8:14-27) and Mark (1:29-39). What new insights do you gain by looking at three different Gospel accounts? Why do the different authors emphasize different things? Come to group ready to share.

TEXTUAL INVESTIGATION

LUKE 4:38-44

Big Idea: The Necessity of Preaching the Good News of the Kingdom of God
Fallen Condition Focus: In need of God's kingdom

- Who is Simon? What does Jesus do for his mother-in-law? How does she respond (v. 39)?
- Why are the people coming to Jesus? What does He do for them (v. 40-41)?
- What is similar about the healing of the mother and the rebuking of the demons (v. 39, 41)?
- Why did Jesus not allow the demon's to speak (v. 41)? [Debated: was it stop a "nationalistic messianic movement" (See HTB) or so Jesus could define His identity Himself or an attempt by the demon's to gain the upper hand against Jesus?]
- Why does Jesus go to a deserted place (v. 42)? (See Mark 1:35)
- Why do the people go looking for Jesus (v. 42)?
- What response does Jesus give to the people (v. 43)? Why do you think He gives this response? (Consider Luke 2:49, 4:5-8 and John 18:36-37)

Gospel Connection: In this passage Jesus showcases an essential part of His ministry in preaching the good news of the Kingdom of God: healing the sick and broken. Read Isaiah 53:4-6. How do the miraculous healings of Jesus foreshadow the ultimate healing of His work on the cross?

TEXTUAL INTERSECTION: How does the text intersect with our lives?

- What evidences of the fallen human condition do you witness in the world around you? In your own life? In your church?
- How has Jesus brought healing to your brokenness? How is He continuing to do so?
- What is the Kingdom of God? (See HTB) What does it mean to be a member of His Kingdom? (See v. 39 and Luke 22:24-27)
- Why is it necessary for us to preach the good news of the Kingdom of God?
- In healing the sick and broken Jesus shows that He is victorious over the powers of the devil, sin, and death. How might you join Him as He continues to build His Kingdom?
- Considering that even Jesus prayed, why is prayer important for our lives and ministries? How might you grow in the discipline of prayer?
- Read 1 Cor. 15:50-58. In light of the victory of Christ and the hope of His coming again, why can and should we be immovable in our work for and with Him? (See v. 58)

REPLICABLE QUESTIONS

Read **Luke 4:38-44** and explore together what the passage reveals about:

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| 1) The character and purposes of God? | 4) Our identity in Christ? |
| 2) The fallen human condition? | 5) Our obedience to Christ? |
| 3) The gospel of Jesus Christ? | 6) Our relationship to others |

TEXTUAL APPLICATION: "So, what now?"

Have each participant identify a personal take-away in light of this study. Is there . . .

- a command to obey? • a beauty to behold? • a mission to fulfill?
- a promise to claim? • a truth to believe? • an example to follow?
- a sin to repent of? • a service to render? • a person to tell?