

**Jesus Establishes His Credentials**  
**Series: Luke**  
**October 1, 2017**                      **Pastor Bill Bump**

In Luke 4, Luke recorded events that Jesus used to establish His credentials. Credentials are used to tell others who a person is.

Jesus wore the title "Son of God" and proved that He has the credentials, that He is worthy of us following Him.

How Jesus established His credentials

1. Jesus spoke with authority.

*Luke 4:31-32 <sup>31</sup> Then Jesus went to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and taught there in the synagogue every Sabbath day. <sup>32</sup> There, too, the people were amazed at his teaching, for he spoke with authority.*

Jesus' teaching was not delegated authority from the scribes, but a message coming from God.

When Jesus used the expression, "I tell you the truth" (used many times in Luke), it was an affirmation of His authority.

*Matthew 28:18 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth."*

2. Jesus boldly battled the enemy.

*Luke 4:33-37 <sup>33</sup> Once when he was in the synagogue, a man possessed by a demon—an evil spirit—cried out, shouting, <sup>34</sup> "Go away! Why are you interfering with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" <sup>35</sup> But Jesus reprimanded him. "Be quiet! Come out of the man," he ordered. At that, the demon threw the man to the floor as the crowd watched; then it came out of him without hurting him further.*

*<sup>36</sup> Amazed, the people exclaimed, "What authority and power this man's words possess! Even evil spirits obey him, and they flee at his command!" <sup>37</sup> The news about Jesus spread through every village in the entire region.*

Demon possession is when demons take control of a person, and usually, that individual has purposely invited Satan into their life. The only way that can happen is through the absence of the Holy Spirit.

What we often see now is demon oppression, where Satan works in the lives of people to cause frustration, anger, sickness, or pain.

The important application for us concerns spiritual warfare.

*Ephesians 6:12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.*

The forgiveness of sins requires an act of the will on the receiver's part, and Satan fights against that decision.

### 3. Jesus healed many people.

*Luke 4:38-41 <sup>38</sup>After leaving the synagogue that day, Jesus went to Simon's home, where he found Simon's mother-in-law very sick with a high fever. "Please heal her," everyone begged. <sup>39</sup>Standing at her bedside, he rebuked the fever, and it left her. And she got up at once and prepared a meal for them.*

*<sup>40</sup>As the sun went down that evening, people throughout the village brought sick family members to Jesus. No matter what their diseases were, the touch of his hand healed every one. <sup>41</sup>Many were possessed by demons; and the demons came out at his command, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But because they knew he was the Messiah, he rebuked them and refused to let them speak.*

By the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was empowered to bring physical healing to all those with diseases or demons, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual.

### 4. Jesus calmly handled His popularity.

*Luke 4:42 Early the next morning Jesus went out to an isolated place. The crowds searched everywhere for him, and when they finally found him, they begged him not to leave them.*

Later in Luke we are told exactly what was taking place, that Jesus went to a solitary place in order to pray.

Luke 5:16 *But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.*

Jesus always took the time to commune with His Father.

Solitude and prayer allow us the opportunity to spiritually recharge our batteries so we can be ready for what we face each day.

5. Jesus clearly understood His ministry.

Luke 4:43-44 <sup>43</sup> *But he replied, "I must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God in other towns, too, because that is why I was sent."* <sup>44</sup> *So he continued to travel around, preaching in synagogues throughout Judea.*

Jesus was always looking for opportunities to share the gospel message, and that is our mission too.

### Conclusion

We are representatives of the risen and living Jesus, who ministers to our world through us.

As representatives of Jesus, we are called to have the same attitude He had in His relationship with His Father: "Not my will, but Your will be done."

For Jesus to minister to our world through us, we must also withdraw for prayer. We must be empowered by the same Holy Spirit.

Luke 4:1a *Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River.*

Luke 4:14a *Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power.*