



40 Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. 41 And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ. 42 And when it was day, he departed and went into a desert place: and the people sought him, and came unto him, and stayed him, that he should not depart from them. 43 And he said unto them, **I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.** 44 **And he preached in the synagogues of Galilee.** (Luke 4:40-44)

It should be noted that the events of this account of healing and casting out of demons occurs after sunset – the time of advancing darkness and the ideal moment of the activity of demons. They love darkness for it hides their wickedness from common view. By contrast, the people of God do their works in broad daylight for all to see. *“Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.”* (1 Thess 5:5-8)

“Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.” Men have forever neglected the greater needs of the soul in seeking the outward healing of the body exclusive to the more efficacious INWARD healing of the soul. Jesus was able to heal thoroughly and completely that disease of the heart that is more deadly than leprosy or any other ailment. Yet, men always sought Him out for a temporary relief of the body rather than an eternal comfort for the soul. It is happening today across many churches (most) in America and around the world. But the compassionate Jesus overlooked their ignorance and healed them every one.

We should also understand that the cause of every disease is sin, and Satan is the author of sin. He sold his depraved goods to the couple in the Garden at Eden, and all of their descendants have inherited that deadly disease of the blood that is incurable by man, but removed by the Lord Jesus Christ and His sacrifice at Calvary. *“And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.”* Long

before the Jewish leaders and common people knew Jesus as Christ, the devils knew. They know scripture better than we do for they were once in Heaven with God long before the Fall in Eden. *“And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.”* (Rev 12:3-4) *“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”* (Rev 12:9) The devils are not prescient, but they are constant observers of our strengths and weaknesses. They are ready to employ just those precise temptations that will break down our walls of defense unless those walls and High Towers are the Lord.

The devils also know Christ, but have rejected Him just as many so-called atheist. By the way: it is my opinion that there are NO true atheists. Sir Francis Bacon said of them: *“Atheism is rather in the life than in the heart of man.”* All know of the existence of God but adamantly deny Him for to admit of the existence of God would force their hand to accept His authority – an admission they cannot make and continue in their wicked ways. So they are rabid to remove all mention of His Name from every public forum. In this way, they are just like the devils: *“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.”* (James 2:19) Do not sell the Devil short. He and his minions have great powers, but his powers are without effect for one who is in the Ark of Christ who has finally and completely vanquished the Devil and his minions.

The Presence of Jesus is better than the best hospital or most elaborate funeral home. Hospitals cannot find sick patients when Christ is around, and the funeral homes cannot keep people buried since they keep popping back up from the grave. So the people wish to keep Jesus with them for His physical blessings, but disregard the greater spiritual blessings He came to offer. *“And when it was day, he departed and went into a desert place: and the people sought him, and came unto him, and stayed him, that he should not depart from them.”* Jesus has labored ALL NIGHT without sleep, yet He is now ready to continue His tiring journey over dusty roads of the hill country to bring Light and Healing to the people. The people desired that He not depart from them. They saw and understood the benefits of His Presence. Had they known the glorious salvation made available to all who keep Jesus as a constant Friend and Companion in the heart, how much more forcefully would they have begged His departure be delayed? Have we, too, thirsted for Christ to abide constantly with us and in us?

“And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent. And he preached in the synagogues of Galilee.” Being the Great Physician, Jesus always practiced medical and spiritual ‘*triage*’ in treating the most life-threatening illness or injury first. What is the most deadly affliction we can have (and all have without Christ)? Is it not the disease of sin with which we were born? Are we not born with that old sinful nature of our primitive parents – Adam and Eve? Far more important than treating the frailties and pains of the flesh is the healing of man’s eternal spirit through the preaching of the Gospel and, of course, every Word that Jesus spoke was the Gospel! He was sent a Light into the world to reveal truth and the secret Love of God to our hearts – the hearts of all whom are the called according to His purpose. So once He has disposed of the illnesses and evicted the devils from their comfortable abode in the souls of the people of Capernaum, He was now anxious to get on with the more important aspects of His Coming – to preach the Kingdom of God in other cities. We, too, should feel that burden warmly, and do it while it is yet day.