

## Teaching power

*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.*

*Luke 4:43-44*

Three times in this chapter Luke emphasizes Jesus' teaching and preaching in the synagogues of Galilee. First, after returning in the power of the Spirit from the wilderness testing, He taught in the region and his fame spread (vv. 14-15). Next, His reading and proclamation of His fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy of Messiah (v. 21) led those of His hometown to marvel, yet reject and attempt to kill Him. Finally, His teaching accompanied by healing from diseases and devils in Capernaum caused the people there to beg Him not to leave. Yet His response to them in our text demonstrates His great desire to preach and teach the kingdom of God.

Although the Gospels provide plenty of evidence of Jesus' miracles that fulfilled the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament, the necessity of His teaching and preaching is manifested here, as well as in the extended discourses and incidental teachings recorded throughout the Gospels. As important as the miracles were to establish His identity, it was His teaching that substantiated it. Even in Nazareth, where no miracle is mentioned, they wondered at His gracious words (v. 22) before their unbelief was fueled by familiarity. Yet in Capernaum, they were astonished at His doctrine and powerful words (v. 32) and continually sought more.

The sensational can only go so far. Many have looked so much for the outwardly miraculous that they have overlooked the foundation of faith. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17). So Jesus demonstrated this principle in pouring forth the doctrine necessary for people to understand and believe in Him. We ought also to follow this example and emphasis. The most important aspect of communicating the gospel is to provide the truth of God's word, which is used by His Holy Spirit to convict and convince people of what they need and who He is, and His authority and power to save. May God grant us the power to deliver the message by word and example.