



“Spreading the News”
Luke 4:42-44

Idea: The news of the Kingdom must be shared rather than hoarded.

Intro: Some things are so good you just cannot keep the news of it to yourself. For that matter, some things are so good you do not want to keep the news to yourself. For example, when a married couple learns they are expecting a baby, they want to share that news with their family and friends. They even throw a gender reveal party when the gender is determined. When a high school senior gets accepted into her top university, she cannot help but tell everyone she knows the great news. When a young couple gets engaged, the world is informed of the news. Photos and videos of the event are plastered all over social media for all to see how it happened. The soon-to-be bride shows off her ring and the groom-to-be brags to his buddies. Other examples of good news might be a new job, a promotion, or a major accomplishment. It could be something as simple as a new purchase. Hey, I bought a new chainsaw the other day. I got the brand and model that I have wanted for a few years. It is awesome! That baby eats through the trees. See, I cannot help myself. Just got to spread the news of such a great product.

As we close out Luke 4 today, we find the Lord Jesus in a similar state. He has revealed Himself as the Messiah. He has been preaching the gospel and healing the people in Capernaum and around the Sea of Galilee. Many of the people have responded in faith. Their lives have been transformed, but Jesus was not satisfied because the news of the Kingdom was too great to stop so short. He understood that the news of the Kingdom must be shared rather than hoarded. Everyone, rather than just a few, needed to hear it.

[Read Luke 4:42-44.](#)

Inquiry: The people of Capernaum had come to know Jesus. He had cast out their demons and healed their bodies. His ministry that night resulted in the healing of nearly every sick person in Capernaum. The only ones not healed were the most hardened cynics. The rest of the people relished their newfound health. The leper could not believe what he felt as he ran his hand over new, smooth skin. The young mom clutched her now healthy infant. A family embraced and welcomed their loved one back after being lost to demon possession for months. In addition to those wonderful miracles, Jesus had preached the gospel in their synagogue, and they had put their faith in Him. They knew Him to be their Savior and Healer. Their lives had been transformed.

Therefore, we are not surprised the people of Capernaum wanted and even attempted to keep Jesus with them. There is no mention of the crowd using force to keep the Lord with them, but it is likely some were thinking it. Who would not want the prospect of living in a town where everyone, old and young alike, is healthy? We are also not surprised by Jesus’ response because this passion and purpose permeates the Word of God.

Jesus came to *“preach the good news of the kingdom of God.”* This is the first mention of “the kingdom of God” in the Gospel of Luke. We will see that it is a favorite phrase of Luke, used thirty-one times, and “kingdom” occurs another six times. Luke does not define the expression in this passage probably because he anticipated his readers already understanding its meaning. The first four chapters of his Gospel have collectively presented a picture of the Kingdom. In them we have witnessed Jesus’ activity in bringing salvation to man and the sphere which is thereby created. As we think about the Kingdom, it is important that we view it dynamically rather than statically. In other words, the kingdom of God is not a reign over a geographic territory with static borders. Instead, it involves the dynamic of God’s reign in and over His people. It has had a past manifestation. God is sovereign and has always been reigning (Ps 24:1). Many people have come under His reign in the past. The Kingdom is also both present and future. There is an already but not yet component to it. It has already been realized in fulfillment of the Old Testament promises but awaits the final consummation when Jesus returns. Luke’s presentation of the Kingdom in this passage refers to its present, realized manifestation.

Jesus came to preach the good news of the Kingdom to the *poor* (πτωχός), the *captives* (αίχμάλωτος), the *blind* (τυφλός), and the *oppressed* (τεθραυσμένους) (4:18-19). He came to those squashed by life’s circumstances, who saw no way out, who found living itself an oppression, and He gave them freedom. This news was too good to reserve only for the people of Capernaum. Other towns and people needed to hear of it; this was the purpose for which Jesus was sent by the Father. This verse reveals God’s divine love for lost sinners. It also presents both a divine passive as the Father sends the Son on mission and a divine imperative as the Son must go on mission.

The news of the Kingdom was so good the Lord Jesus could not keep the news of it to Himself. For that matter, the news of the Kingdom was so good He did not want to keep the news to Himself or even isolated to the people in Capernaum. He was committed to spreading the news because that was the purpose for which He was sent by the Father. If you know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, you understand this reality. You know the transformation He has made in you, and you know the transformation He can and wants to make in others. You also should know that when Jesus makes you a citizen of the Kingdom, you become a messenger of that Kingdom, spreading the news of it within your circles of influence and taking it to the nations.

There is a divine commission to proclaim the gospel upon each believer and follower of Jesus Christ because He has placed it upon His Church (Matt 28:18-20; Acts 1:8). While the commission is in place over our lives, we realize that many times it is not lived out. Some Christians are reluctant to spread the news of the gospel with their family, friends, neighbors, classmates, and coworkers. Some are fearful of crossing cultures for the sake of reaching the lost with the gospel. They are happy to enjoy and hoard it rather than enjoy and share it. God calls His people to share it, and Jesus provides the model for doing so. There are three practical truths revealed in these verses that will help you spread the news.

1. I must think of others.

“I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.”

Jesus’ heart and eyes were fixed on both the people of Capernaum and those in the other towns. His love for people enabled Him to see them. He saw their hurts, struggles, and needs. He saw their inability to help themselves, and this is what compelled Him to go to those towns and preach in the synagogues. This is divine love on display. This is John 3:16 love.

As Christians who have experienced the love of Jesus and the power of the gospel, we too must be able to see people. Unfortunately, we are often distracted and caught up in the busyness of life, which prevents us from seeing and thinking of other people. Love, however, puts others first and oneself second. Jesus said, *“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends”*

(John 15:13). The Christian who is committed to carrying out the mission of Christ and spreading the news of the Kingdom is one who thinks of others. He or she possesses a divine love for people, and that love enables the ability to see people through their sin. This love recognizes sin and the need for redemption, and it compels one to go despite the sin and the lifestyle.

Do you possess a divine love for people? Can you see them? Do you think about their need for Jesus and the gospel? You will never spread the news of the gospel without it.

There is a second practical truth that will help you spread the news.

2. I must go to others.

“I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.”

Jesus was saying, “God the Father has sent Me.” This divine passive reveals that Jesus possessed a divine calling on His life, and we have discovered in these first four chapters that this calling was from birth. Jesus was committed to going to the other towns because the Father had sent Him for that purpose. In the same way, Jesus sends His followers.

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”
– John 20:21

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”
– Matt 28:18-19

This commission is for every believer. It is not placed only on the vocational minister. No, every Christian is a minister of the gospel in his or her circles of influence. The Lord expects and has called you to spread the good news of the gospel where you live, work, and play (Acts 1:8). He has sent you there to tell others about Him, and you are the best person for that job. You are the most equipped and prepared because you know the people. You have the relationships, and the gospel travels best over the bridge of relationships.

As Christians who have experienced the divine love of God and heard His divine commission, when are we going to lean into a “I must go” view of life? When are going to start leveraging our relationships and opportunities for the gospel? Jesus did this. His approach to life was “I must go, for I was sent for this purpose.”

There is a third practical truth that will help you spread the news.

3. I must share with others.

“I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.”

Jesus could see people and was committed to going to people for the sole purpose of sharing the gospel with people. He clearly understood the divine imperative overshadowing His life. *“I must preach...”* Luke was very fond of the word “must.” He used it sixteen times in Luke and twenty-two times in Acts.

As Christians, we need to feel the weight of this word and live under it. We must live under this divine imperative. It is a duty that we need to embrace. We are the answers to our own prayers for others.

Think about it. We pray for our family and friends to hear and trust in the gospel. We want them to come faith in Jesus. Who does the Lord send to share with them in answer to our prayers? It is not an angel. He does not write the gospel in the clouds. Our loved ones are not digging up golden plates with a message from God. The Lord has commissioned us to go to them. We are the answer to our prayers. We are the ones who have been sent. It is our duty to share the gospel with them. If they are to hear it and respond in faith, we will need to see their need, hear our calling to go, and open our mouths to share and spread the news.

God is sovereign in His calling of sinners to faith, but He sovereignly uses His people in this beautiful work.

Read Romans 10:13-15.

Conclusion: Some things are so good you just cannot keep the news of it to yourself. For that matter, some things are so good you do not want to keep the news to yourself. It is hard to keep good news to yourself. It is natural to want to shout out:

- “We are getting married!”
- “We are having a baby!”
- “I got the promotion!”
- “I got a new car!”
- “The test came back benign!”

For some reason, however, it is not as easy for believers to shout out, “Jesus has changed my life!” We are reluctant to spread that good news. Perhaps the reason for not spreading the news is because we do not see the need. It begins with seeing the need and thinking of others. Do you see and think of the spiritual needs of the people around you? Another reason for not spreading the news is because we think it is the responsibility of someone else. Do you see yourself as God’s answer for the people around you? Finally, the reason for not spreading the news is because we fail to open our mouths and share the gospel with others. It is our duty as Christians, but more importantly it is our delight. Paul said, “*How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news*” (Rom 10:15). Spreading the gospel is a beautiful endeavor. This is true of the one sharing, and it is just as beautiful for the one responding. There is nothing like watching Jesus transform a person’s life. When you have an opportunity to participate in something like that, you cannot help but want to delight in it over and over again.

Hey Christian, to whom has the Lord sent you? Are you spreading the news? If not, why not?

If you are not in relationship with Jesus, do you hear the Lord calling you to Himself? Do you understand this news?

Good news: God loves you. He created you and desires to know you.

Bad news: You are a sinner in rebellion against your Creator.

Best news: God has done everything necessary to justly deal with your sin and bring forgiveness and restoration to your life. Today, He calls you to turn from your sin and self and turn to Him as Savior and Lord. Have you received forgiveness in Christ? What would keep you from embracing the truth and believing on Jesus today? Do you need to follow the Lord in believer’s baptism?