

## A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

### MORE THAN WORDS

Luke 4:31-37 “And He was teaching them on the Sabbath, and they were astonished at His teaching, for His word possessed authority. . . with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!” (verses 32,36)

Twice in six verses Luke said that Jesus’ words possessed authority. The Greek word has in mind that Jesus’ words were filled with power. First, they garnered the attention of the people. Huge crowds came to hear Him preach and teach because His teaching and preaching was much different than to what they were accustomed. When Jesus spoke, His words impacted and penetrated the hearts and lives of the hearers.

In a second way Jesus’ preaching and teaching, His words had power. Today’s verses include an account of the third miracle performed by Jesus. Jesus, while in the synagogue spoke His word of power to an unclean demon that possessed a man, “Be silent and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm.” (Luke 4:35) The people responded to this miracle with these words, ““What is this word? For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!” (Luke 4:36)

The Lutheran Self-Study Bible note for this verse says, “With authoritative words, Jesus silences and sends away unclean spirits. God’s Word bears authority for your sake, too, pointing out your uncleanness due to sin, yet also promising deliverance from sin and from attacks of the evil one.” This comment parallels Luther’s in regard to the power of God’s word in connection with your Baptism, Luther wrote, “Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s word. . .” God’s word, connected to the water at your baptism, worked in you and continues to work in you “the forgiveness of sins, rescues you from death and the devil, and gives you eternal salvation as you believe the words and promises of God. (Luther’s Small Catechism)

God’s powerful word is more than just words!

Prayer: Lord, keep me steadfast with Your word through it overpowering all evil and leading me to Jesus's cross and empty tomb. In His holy name. Amen.

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;  
Curb those who by deceit or sword  
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son  
And bring to naught all He has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,  
For You are Lord of lords alone;  
Defend Your holy Church that we  
May sing Your praise eternally.