

Rebuking In the Bible

Luke 4:41 *“Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.”*

Much of the rebuking done by Jesus in the Gospels is a command. He commanded the waves and he commanded the fever. In this particular Bible study, I wanted to continue that theme with a command over evil. This Luke scripture above is special because of two things. One is that Jesus could control demons. They had no power whatsoever. Jesus was even in a synagogue in verse 33 and a demon of a possessed man cried out to him. The demon was in the temple? It’s interesting that the demons confront Jesus first. They knew who he was. Secondly, we see that Jesus could control many demons at once. In the Gospels many of these incidents come while Jesus was healing people. How many sick people are chronically ill because they are demon possessed?

Matthew 17:18 *“Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed at that moment.”*

Jesus could control Evil Spirits. He commands them not to speak like in Luke 4 above. In Matthew 17 Jesus rebuked the demon to come out of the boy. Look at Mark 9:25 *“When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. “You deaf and mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.”* Jesus called the

Spirit deaf and mute. Did he just command him not to speak? Then Jesus said never go in that boy again. The Bible shows Jesus doing different miracles. One of those was to cast out demons and healing souls.

Psalm 104:7 “At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder, they hasted away.

Zechariah 3:2 “And the Lord said unto Satan, The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?”

Micah 3:11 “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.”

On earth it looks like Satan is winning. We don't know why God chose to let the devil run free. However, he chose to let us run free too. It's the ultimate showdown. Is it a chess match between the Devil and God? People think it is. I will contend that Satan is a bit player. He is not mentioned that much in the Bible. Humans disobeyed God in the beginning. They felt that God was not giving them a fair deal. God in his wisdom allowed humans and Satan to run free together. Is that a fair deal? Maybe God wanted us to run with the devil and choose.

Rebuking demons or the Devil is displayed in the Bible to show us that Jesus had control over the powers of darkness. We could claim that the devil made us do it. Yet, Christ followers have someone in their court that is stronger than a Devil or demons. In Acts 19 there is a scene where a few men decided to cast out demons. They were brave and confident but these guys were missing one thing: Jesus. The demons proceeded to beat them up. It's fascinating that the Evil Spirit said Jesus I know but you I do not. We must approach evil with Christ Jesus in mind.

Jude 1:9 “Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.”

I like the verse above. Even the Archangel Michael knew that the power of God outweighed the Devil. We will delve into rebuking people but for now it's important to know your place in God's realm. We are his children. As his children we have no power to fight the Devil or demons. I know that there are those who claim God as given them the power to fight off demons or call on healing. God is not some sword or power to be commanded. In Mark 9 the disciples could not cast out a demon. Jesus said this type could only be done by prayer. I would even say special prayer. Interestingly enough Jesus does not elaborate or complete the demon expulsion. Then an argument erupted between the disciples of who was the greatest. I believe the writer was trying to point out that the greatest human does not get to rebuke demons or the Devil. God alone does. However, in the name of Jesus, we have a fighting chance.