



[Luke 4:31-39](#)

(31) Then He went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and was teaching them on the Sabbaths. (32) And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority. (33) Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice, (34) saying, "Let *us* alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!" (35) But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him in *their* midst, it came out of him and did not hurt him. (36) Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, "What a word this *is!* For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out." (37) And the report about Him went out into every place in the surrounding region. (38) Now He arose from the synagogue and entered Simon's house. But Simon's wife's mother was sick with a high fever, and they made request of Him concerning her. (39) So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them.

New King James Version

What Jesus did on the first [Sabbath](#) of His ministry is to signal an attack against the forces of evil. He began a holy war to free mankind from [Satan](#) and [sin](#). The demon knew it, which is why it reacted the way it did. It threw a tantrum. If we would put what the demon said into modern, colloquial terms, it snapped at Jesus, "Why are You interfering here?" And Jesus came right back, with authority, "Shut your mouth! And come out of him."

The demon was not about to give up easily. It was probably a strong demon, but it did obey its Master and came out - yet not without thrashing the man around. Fortunately, the man was not hurt.

So the first shot that was fired in this war was a spiritual [healing](#): Jesus liberated a man from a demon on the Sabbath day. He may have done a few other things before, but

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this was the first public act as part of His ministry.

This began the war for control of the earth, for the right to rule over it after He had defeated the demons' master, Satan. Jesus was showing that the demons would not fare any better than he. By casting out the demon, He restored order and [peace](#) to the congregation, as the possessed man had been causing trouble.

The second thing He did, then, was a physical healing that resulted in service to others. This unfortunate woman, who was bound by a disease, is relieved of it by [Jesus Christ](#). Then *she* rose and immediately served everybody else. This ought to give us a clue - those of us who receive healing - as to what we are supposed to do with our healing. We are to rise and serve.

Here, in a nutshell, are major principles by which our Sabbath activities can be judged. The Sabbath is for redemption, liberty, [joy](#), peace, and service that comes through [fellowship](#) and instruction that reorients our devotion to the right direction.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[The Fourth Commandment \(Part 2\)](#)



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