I Corinthians First Things First X notes

Luke 4:31-34

What are demons, what do they do and what should we do about them?

--The word demon shows up more than 80 times in New Testament.

--They are referred to as unclean or evil spirits who do many horrible things.

1. They control people and destroy their lives: **Mark 1:34; Mark 9:17 18; Luke 13:11.**

2. Purveyors of lies, deceptions and false doctrine: **I Timothy 4:1**

--These were blamed for leading people astray and being the power behind idols.

3. They are major players in the end times: **Revelation 16:13-16**

--Jesus spends a good part of His ministry fighting and expelling these in the Gospels, and the disciples have multiple encounters with them in Acts.

--You may remember the 2000 documentary "In Search of Jesus" ABC special with Peter Jennings – they didn't find Jesus!

--Four years before in an article in Time magazine by the same title – they didn't find Him either!

--These Magazines and documentaries can't find Jesus for the same reason that a thief can't find a police station.

For this same reason a demon wasn't happy to "find" Him in a synagogue **Luke 4:31-34**

--Jesus gives us His job description back in **Luke 4:18**

--Remember, the world is incarcerated by Satan and he plans for that jail to be their tomb

--Once a person admits this as true and that they need a Savior and turns to Christ, Jesus rescues them --**Heb. 2:14**

A shorter job description of Jesus is given to us here: **I John 3:8.** – if someone asks why Jesus came--*there you go*.

--The Bible states flatly that the entire world and every person in it under the dominion of Satan, they are enslaved to him and, as such, **are his possession** (**I Jn. 5:19; Heb. 2:14-15;)** notice Paul's job description which is the same as ours **Acts 26:17-18;**

--The whole world and everybody in it are the possession of Satan with exception of those who are the possession of God.

--(**I Cor. 6:19-20)** – We are the possession of God and have passed out of the kingdom of darkness.

--**Col. 1:13** --If a person is not a believer, then this is NOT true for them.

The whole world and everybody in it are the possessions of Satan, his angels and demons, *but they are not necessarily demon*-possessed.

--Demons possession is relatively rare in the Bible.

--Not hardly any mention of it in the Old Testament; not one mention of possession in the Epistles, only in the first 3 Gospels (not in John) and the book of Acts.

Why is demon possession rare both in the Bible and in life?

1. Because it isn't often necessary – people mess their lives up all by themselves.

2. Because of simple logistics and statistics – there aren't enough demons to go around.

Let's take a closer look at our passage. Lk. 4:31-36
Several things to take careful notice of here:
1. This is the first miracle listed in Luke; why?
--It's the first miracle listed because it is the major theme of Jesus' ministry, to destroy the power of the evil one **I John 3:8**; to deliver us from his power.
2. Where do we find this demon-possessed man?
--In the Synagogue! -- He's undoubtedly a member of the community; probably well known; functioning member of society – why would they let him in there otherwise?

This assaults our typical view of demon possession:
--We tend to think this manifests in the crazier behaviors—the demon possessed man in the tombs; the boy who had demon that threw him into the water or the fire at times.
--I believe they would like for us to think that their hallmark is lunatic behavior, whereas it is more likely to be moral, religious behavior.
--Jesus called the Pharisees sons of the Devil; He described them like those from whom a demon left only to return with 7 more demons more wicked than itself.
--The Devil sure made the Pharisees appear very prosperous; they were educated, wealthy, and moral—not homeless people living under an overpass.
--Wouldn't you conclude that Hitler was demon possessed? – How articulate, how brilliant, how well planned he was.

What is demon possession?
1. Everyone who is not a believer is under demonic dominating power **I Jn. 5:19**.
--Possession is a very specific and relatively rare form of dominance In which the unbeliever is controlled and cannot stop it.
--The demon controls what they do where they go, what they say, they are trapped in their own bodies and someone else is running their hardware.
2. Possession is a fluid thing – Demons come and go at will (Saul the king: **I Sam. 16:23**; Jesus speaks of a demon leaving a person
3. Demons' goal is to keep people out of the kingdom of God, to keep that which they possess.
--This may be through overt control as in what we classically understand as demon possession, or it may be just through deception: **II Cor. 4:3-4**

3. The demons aren't "in search of Jesus" V. 34.
--They know Him! – do you know as much as a demon knows?
--They also know the end of the story – Listen to this demon, he's no Christ denier – he's a fundamentalist! He's a premillennialist as well!
--**James 2:19** – "tremble" in the Greek implies a continuous state; "what are demons doing right now?" they are trembling!

--They live in constant fear because they don't know anymore about the
end than we do—they don't know the day or the hour either!

We know that because of Jesus' death and resurrection that eternity is settled for those who believe on Him and we rejoice.
--Demons Know the exact opposite, there is no salvation for the them
and they tremble at the certainty of the lake of fire.