

The Authority of the King

Mark 1:21-34

September 30, 2012

Introduction

Mark 1:21-34 *They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²²The people were amazed at His teaching, because He taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. ²³Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, ²⁴"What do You want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are-the Holy One of God!" ²⁵"Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" ²⁶The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. ²⁷The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching-and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey Him." ²⁸News about Him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee. ²⁹As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. ³¹So He went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. ³²That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon possessed. ³³The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but He would not let the demons speak because they knew who He was.*

Mark brings us to Capernaum where Jesus begins His public ministry with the disciples. Mark ignores what He did in Nazareth where they tried to kill Him, and instead chose to focus on His work in the Capernaum area of the Sea of Galilee. Capernaum is located in the northwest portion of the Sea of Galilee, away from the Gentile towns that spring up in the eastern part of the lake (the Decapolis).

Mark begins with the one day of Jesus' life on Sabbath and brings us to the synagogue. What is a synagogue? It is a place of meeting where the Jews met and studied the Law. There was only one Temple where they did the sacrifices, but there were many synagogues. In fact, Josephus tells us that all it takes to set up a synagogue was to have at least 10 Jewish males over the age of 13 and then one can set up a synagogue. Jesus met in the synagogue and preached there many times. In fact it was His custom to meet at the synagogue. Scribes would come and teach to the people the Law and expound on it. The scribes are teachers of the law. They are the foremost experts of the law because their job is to copy the Law upon scrolls and explain the meaning. They were called Rabbis which meant "honored ones". They would come and teach on Sabbath at the synagogue.

Mark then tells us how different Jesus was through His authority. He has authority over both the spiritual and the physical world. There is no one in the world that has that authority.

I. Authority Over the Spiritual World (22-28)

- His teaching

²²The people were amazed at His teaching, because He taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. ²³Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out.

- People were amazed
- Demons were terrified

Note: The contrast is striking because in the first half of Mark the only ones that know about Jesus are the demons. The people have no idea who Jesus is, but the demons do.

- Having authority

Matthew 7:28-29 *When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at His teaching, ²⁹because He taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.*

- Authority—*exousia*—rule, full might, power
- He spoke as God's mouthpiece—fully revealing the truth
- *not as the teachers of the law* (or scribes)
 - scribes would quote other teachers
 - Quote all the views of past scribes and rabbis
- Terrified demons
 - While Jesus was teaching, the demon(s) exposed themselves by screaming
 - What terrified and exposed the demons?

Mark 3:11 *Whenever the evil spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out,*

Mark 5:7 *He shouted at the top of his voice,*

Luke 4:41 *Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God!"*

James 2:19 *You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that-and shudder.*

- Jesus Christ Himself

1 John 3:8b *The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.*

- What was the devil's work?

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 *For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. ¹⁵It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.*

1 Timothy 4:1 *The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.*

Note: The demons know their final destination. It is interesting that the demons revealed themselves in the synagogue because they are so scared of Jesus. The implication is staggering and true—demons had control over the false Jewish system. They work through false religions.

- Jesus' authority
 - "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!"
 - Demons obeyed and left the man
 - Instant rebuke and instant reaction (obedience)

Note: People were amazed (mind blew away!) of what Jesus did. They have never seen such a thing before. Usually with Jewish exorcism, there is a bunch of acting and long meaningless words involved, but Jesus did it with few words and with authority.

Side-note: Nowhere in Scripture are we commanded to cast out demons. We do not have the authority to do so. What we are commanded to do is to preach the gospel and let the Holy Spirit transform such a person.

II. Authority Over the Physical World (29-34)

- Leaving the synagogue to Peter's house
- Peter's mother-in-law is sick

Luke 4:38 *Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her.*

Note: Luke is a doctor and he notes that she had high fever, which means her body was fighting some serious infection. It was so bad that they asked Jesus to help her.

- Jesus healed her
- Jesus healed many
 - Evening—Sundown after the Sabbath was when people could carry loads
- Modern "faith" healers
 - TV and tent revivals
 - All faked—no evidence of healing actually occurring
 - All in controlled environment
 - If healing is true, why not go to hospitals and heal there or doctor's office?
 - Their view—you must have faith to have healing (and pay large sums of money)
 - Based on bad theology
- Jesus' healing
 - Healed with word or touch
 - Healed instantly
 - Healed totally
 - Healed everybody
 - Healed in public view
 - Healed visible diseases—palsy, blindness, deafness, paralyzed
- Apostles' healing
 - Acts only record few instances of healing
 - Letters of Paul reveal that many people were sick
 - Timothy (**1 Timothy 5:23**)—Paul tells him to drink wine because of his sickness (does not offer to heal him)
 - Trophimus (**2 Timothy 4:20**)—Paul leaves him sick
 - Epaphroditus (**Philippians 2:25**)—Paul prayed that he be healed
- Why did Jesus heal?
 - To prove that He is the Son of God...prove His power and His words

John 9:30-33 *The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where He comes from, yet He opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the*

godly man who does His will. ³²Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

Matthew 8:17 *This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases."*

- Why did He command the demons to be silent?
 - *but He would not let the demons speak because they knew who He was.*

Note: The demons are against Him...they are liars. He did not want their lies to intermingle with His truth. This is the most dangerous of all religion...acceptance of Jesus but loaded with lies.

Conclusion

The people were amazed and the demons trembled. Both are going to the same place—Lake of Fire. Jesus does not want our astonishment and He does not want our fear. He wants our fear of Him and we run to Him for salvation. Have you run to Christ in fear and cling to Him for salvation? If you have, then join us while we partake this Lord's Supper.