

Mark
“Powerful Preaching”

1:21-34

- I. **Introduction**
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I. **Introduction**

Mark records that when Jesus began His earthly ministry He did so by identifying with humanity at His baptism. Then He showed His supremacy over all that defeats humanity during His temptation. But here Mark shows that Jesus comes to humanity as the Great Teacher demonstrating the authority of His words over the things that hold and enslave humanity, physically and mentally. Mark gives this is a “*day in the life of Jesus*” as we read that on:

- Saturday morning Jesus was in the Synagogue
- In the afternoon He was at Peter’s house
- By evening He was in the Streets outside of that home

The general observation of this one day section is what Mark will record as others observations in chapter 7:37 that Jesus, “*does all things well.*” Though these events fall into the category of miracles they were nonetheless manifestations of the authority of Jesus’ Word. The geographical region that these took place is also significant, as ten miles from Capernaum was Tiberius famous for its mineral hot springs where people believed they had curative properties. People came from all over to this famous spa to bathe hoping to be healed from various ailments and to this very area came the Great Physician to heal those with various diseases with the Living Water of the Word!

II. Vs. 21-28 Authority and the comfortable

Vs. 21-22 Jesus was on the Sabbath in Capernaum and today if you visit Capernaum you find only ruins, there is the pillars of the synagogue that was built in the 2nd century over the floor of the original and a Catholic Church that hovers over like a space craft of what they believe was Peter's house. But at the time this was written Capernaum was the largest and most prosperous of all the cities in the Galilee in which the smallest city had 15,000.

Synagogues come into existence during the Babylonian captivity because the Jews were unable to worship at the temple. They dotted the countryside where ever ten Jewish males lived so they could study, worship and pray. They were not staffed by the priesthood but by rulers in the community and whenever a rabbi came into the area he would be invited to speak on the Sabbath.

The word "*taught*" in the Greek is one that indicates both His purpose and length as soon as He entered this Synagogue He began to teach for an extended time. The word "*astonished*" could be translated "*blown away*" as it expresses shock and amazement during the entire time they heard Jesus Speak. What "*blew them away*" was the authority Jesus spoke with. The word in the Greek is a legal term that describes "*delegated authority*" a person who is acting or speaking with authority out of someone else's authority. Jesus made no reference to any other authority, instead His words were insightful, practical and applicable. **The contrast was not between what the scribes said and what Jesus said but rather between the EFFECTS produced by what the scribes said and what Jesus said. This authority was visible not in mere emotions of those who heard His teaching but in its command over those things that possess humanity for**

their ruin. The authority of His words were seen in the command His words had in renewing natural order over the physical and mental. They were true to the experiences and convictions of the people who heard Him speak. What they heard from Jesus was self-authenticated and created an inner conviction as if Jesus was speaking directly into the life secrets of their hearts that no one could have known save God.

Vs. 23-28 Mark offers an illustration of Jesus authority from an unusual source as it comes from someone who had a natural inclination of opposition to it, an unclean spirit.

Here was this man who had been Sabbath after Sabbath without so much as a peep, apparently hearing nothing of conviction that demanded his departure. Yet it is clear **Jesus' teaching tortured the demon with truth,** as he broke out in an angry interruption.

To which Jesus responds with a rebuke to be silent and a command to come out. Reading this account causes me to wonder about churches today and the messages that are taught.

Does the popularity of some teachers include those possessed with unclean spirits as they hear nothing convicting that demands their silence or exodus? **Perhaps the church**

should redefine success in not how many attend but rather in who is no longer

comfortable to attend? It is clear that this demon recognized not only the authority of

Jesus but three other things:

1. That they are on the opposite side of truth
2. Their ultimate end, destruction
3. Jesus' true identity, God

Mark indicates that though the people were familiar with truth they had moved so far

from it as to be astonished and amazed when confronted by it. **Oh where is preaching**

that demons fear, truth that demands that they depart? Yes it is true that the church

wouldn't be as large or as popular but it would be holy and powerful!

III. Vs. 29-31 Authority and compassion

Vs. 29-31 The second example Mark offers of the authority of Jesus' words happened soon after the first at Peter's house. Here the example of authority is an illustration of what moved His authority, **compassion** and how quickly what disabled a person from being whole took flight at His words as we are informed that, "*immediately the fever left her and she served them*". The English makes it sound as if they told Jesus to heal her but the Greek tells us that it was Jesus idea to do so, it was His initiative and compassion that moved Him to touch her. The Talmud called this '*a burning fever*' and it was, very common in this part of Galilee. The Talmud actually lays down the methods of dealing with it. "*A knife made wholly of iron was tied by a braid of hair to a thorn bush. On successive days there was repeated, first, Exodus 3:2, 3; then Exodus 3:4; and finally Exodus 3:5. A certain magical formula was pronounced, and thus the cure was supposed to be achieved.*" Jesus completely disregarded all this superstition with a touch of His hand and His word she was healed.

Her fever would have left her in a day or so, but Jesus respond to her condition even though it was nothing more than mere inconvenience. **The authority of Jesus is not reserved for only the big cases, the ones that have come up to such a level as to have no other hope. No, His compassion ministers His words and touch at the small insignificant cases that are only an annoyance.** How often have we suffered during our "*insignificant conditions*" needlessly when our Lord at His word and touch would have had compassion and made us whole? Saints, we have not because we ask not! I would hope this little three verse revelation would cause people to immediately right after this service to come forward to receive a touch from Jesus at His word!

IV. Vs. 32-34 Authority and control

Vs. 32-34 Jesus ministering after sundown at the end of the Sabbath day freed people from the Sabbath restrictions on travel and activity so they came to Him to be healed. And Mark tells us that the whole city gathered at their door bringing with them all who were sick and demon-possessed. Now that's what I want at my door at sunset don't you? Mark's point on the authority of Jesus' words is upon the VOLUME and CONTROL of His authority. There are several observations about these three verses:

1. **His authority could not be exhausted:** *Neither by volume nor by variety* as we see both illustrated in these three verses.
2. **His authority was selective and controlled: Mark tells us not that ALL who were sick with various diseases and ALL who were demon-possessed were healed but rather that MANY were.** Why some and not others? Only that such deliverance wasn't in the persons or the Kingdoms best interest at that time.
3. **His authority didn't need promotion:** What Mark does say was that all demons were silenced from speaking because they knew His authority. ***The quarantine was laid upon their advertisement of Jesus' power and authority which He obviously didn't want their PR.*** When you read the multiple other accounts of Jesus' healings He seems to always be squelching people wanting to promote Him by telling them too not tell anyone. Jesus didn't want the crowds or the notoriety that the authority of His words generated. The crowds didn't help His ministry they hindered it. Absent in Jesus' healing ministry is ALL advertisement as you see no campaigns to bring in huge crowds, there is no record of the use of personal testimonials to increase attendance. Not one single thread of similarity

between what we see today and what Jesus did, brings me to the conclusion that what we see today is unbiblical and unnecessary. If God has called you and gifted you to heal than go heal, the streets are full of sick and needy people, so are our hospitals. Do so in such a way that no one knows you or will find out about you so that God will get all the glory and not you. I believe Jesus still heals but let's put it into perspective any and all physical healing as blessed as they are, are still temporary. Oh you many never suffer from what ails you again in this life but chances are you will suffer from something again. But there is a healing that Jesus longs for every person to encounter and that is the healing of your spirit from dead to alive. The healing of your spirit is a permanent healing that will affect all the ugliness that comes out of us.