

## The Authority of Christ

[Mar 1:21-28 ESV] 21 And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. 22 And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had **authority**, and not as the scribes. 23 And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, 24 "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are--the Holy One of God." 25 But Jesus **rebuked** him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" 26 And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. 27 And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with **authority**! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." 28 And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

### I. Intro

- A. We continue to pray for the conflict in the Middle East.
- B. Resurrection Sunday is coming:
  1. 3 services on Sunday Morning
  2. A special "Good Friday" service on Friday night
- C. The authority of Christ is going to be seen throughout our study of Mark in various ways.
- D. Know this: Jesus has all authority, and that includes authority over your life.
- E. Today we see Him deal with an unclean Spirit, and with the religious authorities of the day.
- F. Last week we were challenged to follow Christ's direction, this week we see further reasoning behind our quick and willful obedience.
- G. As we look at what is happening today:
  1. A reminder of an aspect of life that we don't talk about much: demonic activity
  2. We avoid things we do not understand and are scary to us, but it doesn't make it less true
  3. The demonic activity in our world today can be seen in lots of ways
  4. But take heart: If you have the Holy Spirit living in you, there is no room for a demon.
  5. Referred to as a unclean spirit, the demonic influence cannot inhabit the sanctity of the presence of God.
- H. The results of the interaction today really stir things up, and His fame spreads
  1. Some of you are good at stirring things up...
  2. Make sure that energy is given to stirring things up in a good way!
- I. I'm reminded today of the sufficiency of scripture: Christ and His message is all we need, we simply need to continue telling HIS story, and continue stirring things up

### II. Text

- A. Verses 21-22: Authoritative teaching
  1. Capernaum:
    - a) Became home base for much of the ministry time in the Galilee
    - b) We will see more and learn more of this town as we go along, but today there is a giant structure built over the ruins of Peter's MIL's house that will be in our story next week.
  2. Scribes:
    - a) Handled the torah as legal advisors, and referencing previous teachers and traditions.
    - b) They would have been well studied in both the law and prior interpretations of the law
  3. Jesus taught as one with personal authority, declaring truth from His own understanding of the law, which He wrote...

- B. Verses 23-24: Immediate test
  - 1. Unclean Spirit in the man recognized Jesus and His authority
  - 2. The demon knew Jesus was the holy one of God
- C. Verses 25-26: Jesus rebukes
  - 1. Authority over all things includes unclean spirits
  - 2. Jesus's words brought a reaction
- D. Verses 27-28: Recognition
  - 1. Recognition of Authority
  - 2. Recognition of importance
  - 3. Notice: a question and a statement:
    - a) What is this?: Question
    - b) A new teaching with authority: statement
  - 4. Fame spread everywhere

### III. Points

- A. The Holy One of God
  - 1. Lets be reminded of the holy one who is Lord of All
  - 2. [Rev 19:11-16 ESV] 11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. 14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. 15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.
  - 3. [Phl 2:9-11 ESV] 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
  - 4. So many other verses speak to His holiness and authority, but what we see in the text today is the demon recognized it:
    - a) There is no doubt from the spiritual realm about who is in charge
    - b) There is not a question about Christ, It is an established fact
    - c) HE IS the Holy One of GOD!
  - 5. What does this mean for us?
    - a) It means that we are in direct contrast to this
    - b) It means that there is only one who is holy, and He has authority
    - c) It means that the thing you are wrestling with in life needs to be submitted to Christ first and quickly.
  - 6. Jesus is the Holy One of GOD and has AUTHORITY over
    - a) all things
    - b) all aspects of life
    - c) all difficulties and all victories.
  - 7. His authority is not in question, yet He allows us WILL to decide to honor Him or refuse, so be reminded, we give Him great glory when we willfully respond to His authority in worship.
- B. A New Teaching with Authority
  - 1. Rather than referring to all the possible interpretations of the law throughout the generations (like the scribes), Jesus spoke as the author of the truth.
  - 2. How?:
    - a) Jesus is referred to as the Word and the Creator:

- b) Jhn 1:1-3 ESV] 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.
  - c) He is the creator:
  - d) [Col 1:16-17 ESV] 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
  - e) He Spoke the world into existence:
  - f) [Gen 1:3, 6, 9 ESV] 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ... 6 And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ... 9 And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so.
3. That is the ultimate authority, and that is with what authority He speaks today.
    - a) As He was, He is today:
    - b) Authority, Creator, Lord
  4. The teaching wasn't actually new, it was just different from what they had grown accustomed to.
  5. You are to submit to the same authority that has always been, and recognize the beauty of brokenness being miraculously restored
  6. What are you refusing to submit to God?
- C. The Testimony created a stir
1. The testimony is still creating a stir
  2. How did you hear about Jesus?
    - a) Parents?
    - b) Friend?
    - c) Sibling?
    - d) Teacher?
  3. You heard of the authority of Christ as a wave of testimony spread across the region that day, and has continued to spread today.
  4. Keep telling the story!
  5. Keep spreading the FAME of Jesus, and the impact He still has on life today.
  6. Think about it:
    - a) The one with all authority
    - b) Spoke with authority
    - c) Commands Unclean Spirits
    - d) Transforms lives
    - e) And is still doing that work today
    - f) Though He had all authority, He submitted Himself to the cross, and died for our sins.
    - g) Then was raised to new life, giving us a promise for eternity.
  7. What is our role?
    - a) Declare what He has done
    - b) Allow His story to be heard
    - c) Participate in the mission
    - d) Continue stirring things up.
  8. We cannot improve the gospel, we just need to continue telling the story, and let the gospel do its work.
    - a) The scripture is sufficient
    - b) The Text of scripture is our content
    - c) The Testimony of Christ is already life changing, unleash it.
    - d) Who are you to tell this good news?

IV. Close