

*Shout out to worship team- **Picture**

SERIES: **The Jesus Journey**

TEXT: **Mark 1:21-34**

TITLE: **The Commanding and Compassionate Christ**

SETUP-

- Jesus has set off on an assault mission against sin and satan (Baptism/ Wilderness)
- He has recruited a community of disciples to follow him daily, not just learn from Him weekly
- Now Mark, the author, is going to highlight 2 attributes of Christ- His **authority** & His **compassion**

Original Readers faced tremendous persecution under Nero; They needed this reminder:

Gospel Truth: Jesus has authority over demons and disease, and has compassion over sinners and sufferers

We need this reminder also...because here's an

Obvious Observation: Every realm of life has been invaded and impacted by darkness

Globally, nationally, and regionally, we see it;

-wars, unrest, poverty, fires, etc.

Collectively, personally, and intimately, we feel it

-Marriages and families are under demonic attack; Purity in singleness is continually challenged

-Mental health, Physical health, Emotional health

Sin and satan are no respecters of men- they leak into areas we so thoughtfully protected

This is why Mark reminds us- Jesus commands with authority & sympathizes with compassion

V.21-27 Jesus' Authority; V.28-34 Jesus' Compassion

²¹ They went into **Capernaum**, (trading route/ Roman outpost and Tax station/ Matthew called) and right away he entered the **synagogue** on the Sabbath and began to teach.

***Picture of synagogue** - assembly halls where the Torah was read and expounded on/ no sacrifices here

²² They were **astonished** at his teaching because he was teaching them as one who had **authority**, and not like the scribes.

The scribes were the most knowledgeable group; often quoted this scribe and that scribe.

Jesus stands on His own authority, *"truly truly I tell you..."*

Mark doesn't focus on the content of Jesus' teaching, but on the power

²³ Just then a man with an unclean spirit was in their synagogue.

In the Old Testament, one couldn't be unclean before God, and thus the unclean spirit making the person unclean separated them from God.

Don't miss the fact that the demon had no problem going to church, He had a problem with Jesus-

He cried out, ²⁴ **"What do you have to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"**

The demon gives both earthly and divine titles of Jesus, and then alludes to a reserve of reinforcements

Some argue he's trying to intimidate Jesus; others believe the demon panicked

Here's what we do know is certain:

Jesus is the pure unblemished one, cleansing the impurities of this life

Jesus doesn't only forgive- He cleanses (more on that in 2 weeks)

Notice that it was as Jesus was preaching that verse 23 tells us, “*Just then*” the demon interrupts Jesus’ teaching

Ephesians 6:17 Sword= the Word of God

We have an unclean spirit in a sacred place at a sacred time-

²⁵ Jesus rebuked him saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶ And the unclean spirit threw him into convulsions, shouted with a loud voice, and came out of him.

The demons recognized Jesus’ divinity but the people only recognize his authority

²⁷ They were all amazed, and so they began to ask each other, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.”

We ought to surrender to Jesus because He has the authority

Zechariah 13:1-2 “On that day a fountain will be opened for the house of David and for the residents of Jerusalem, to wash away sin and impurity. ² On that day”—this is the declaration of the Lord of Armies—“I will remove the names of the idols from the land, and they will no longer be remembered. I will banish the prophets and the unclean spirit from the land.”

²⁸ At once the news about him spread throughout the entire vicinity of Galilee.

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they went into Simon and Andrew’s house with James and John.

***Picture of Peters house** – typically 4 ‘houses’ with a shared courtyard

³⁰ Simon’s mother-in-law was lying in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once.

Big Deal then. In ancient times it was believed that fever was caused supernaturally- “God’s fire”

“They told him about her”- do you talk to God? Do you tell him about your troubles, your burdens, your cares?

Psalms 55:22 Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you...

JC Ryle- “Let us be armed with a formula against despair before our troubles come. Let us know what to do when sickness or bereavement or cross or loss or disappointment breaks in upon us like an armed man. Let us do as they did in Simon’s house at Capernaum. Let us at once tell the Lord.”

³¹ So **he went to her**, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her, and she began to serve them.

She wasn’t just healed, she was strengthened

We aren’t just saved by the work of Christ; we are also strengthened by the Spirit of God to walk in righteousness and serve Him

³² When evening came, after the sun had set, (once the sabbath was over) **they brought to him all those who were sick and demon-possessed.**

It’s important to note that Mark does make a distinction between those who are sick and those who are possessed.

Possession is always treated as evil but not as sinful, and the victim is not offered forgiveness but freedom.

³³ The whole town was assembled at the door, ³⁴ and he healed many who were sick with various diseases and drove out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

Jesus responded to the peoples NEED

They didn’t earn His compassion by religious performance; they provoked it, by bringing their needs to Him

We ought to bring our every need to Jesus because He is compassionate

Those who flock to Jesus are those who have an awareness of their need
Not 'get it together', or 'get somewhat cleaned up' then come,
simply come because of who He is

Gospel Truth: Jesus has authority over demons and disease, and compassion over sinners and sufferers

2 Timothy 1:11-12 For this gospel I was appointed a herald, apostle, and teacher, ¹² and that is why I suffer these things. But I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to guard what has been entrusted to me until that day.

Do you know whom you have believed in?? *Commanding and Compassionate Jesus*
Do you know He can guard your family, your future, your life?

The Warning:

Jesus later cursed Capernaum, along with Chorazin and Bethsaida, because even after He performed miracles there, the inhabitants of these towns did not believe His message

Matt 11:20; 23-24 Then he proceeded to denounce the towns where most of his miracles were done, because they did not repent:

²³And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will go down to Hades. For if the miracles that were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until today. ²⁴But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."

The Warning: Interest in Jesus, short of faith in Jesus, is tragic

It is dangerous to be astonished and amazed by Christianity yet remain unchanged
They wanted something *from* Jesus but they didn't really want Jesus himself
Jesus will not tolerate those who have seen what He can do and still refuse to repent

"We must all go to Jesus for he alone can give us the things we need for life; but if that going and these gifts do not produce in us in answering love and gratitude there is something tragically wrong. God is not someone to be used in the day of misfortune; he is someone to be loved and remembered every day of our lives."- William Barclay

*****CALL UP WORSHIP TEAM**

Communion

Isaiah 53:4-6 Yet he himself bore our sicknesses, and he carried our pains;
but we in turn regarded him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities;
punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds.

⁶We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way;
and the Lord has punished him for the iniquity of us all.

BULPEN-

V22 vs v34b – news spreads amongst the people yet Jesus restrains the demons from shedding light

V32 once the sabbath was over

Capernaum means “the house (or, town) of Nahum”; however, the identity of this Nahum is unknown. In New Testament times, Capernaum was a center of commerce. Fishing and trade were important, and the town was a Roman tax polling station. (this is also where Jesus calls Matthew to follow him, Matt.9:9-10)

Unclean Spirit- evil spirits are often referred to as impure

Chad bird points out that “*the average Israelites moved between the borders of ritual cleanness and uncleanness their whole lives... that is the background for Mark 5, where Jesus encounters three kinds of uncleanness: unclean spirits (5:2); a woman suffering from bleeding (5:25); and the dead body of the daughter of Jarius (5:40). What makes each of these astonishing and instructive is that Jesus, far from becoming unclean himself, destroys the uncleanness and brings forth life, healing, and restoration.*”

5 times in the surrounding section, the theme of Jesus’ authority is presented

Q: What is your source of authority?

We all abide by some form of authority beyond ourselves.

Reason- *I think that...* Experience- *I feel that...* Tradition- *We have always...*

REVELATION (the written word and the living word)- *God says...*

The fever left her, is more literally translated as, *the fever forsook her*

Simon and Andrews house (Peters house)- a flying saucer looking church was built over it

We can learn from Jesus that he served not only when it was public but even in privacy willing to help others

Demonic possession is the satanic counterfeit of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The spirit comes to indwell believers and makes them more fully human- holy and flourishing as God designed us to be. But demons enter into someone to take control of them in order to steal, kill, and destroy. – Jason Meyer

James 2:19 You believe that God is one. Good! Even the demons believe—and they shudder.

There is a chasm of difference between

Jesus is Lord and Jesus is my Lord

Jesus is savior and Jesus is my savior

If you are a follower of Jesus, you have the Holy Spirit living within you- you cannot be possessed by an unclean spirit!

Implications-

We ought to bring our needs to Him; We ought to intercede for the needs of others; We ought to serve Him