



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Mark 1:21–34

Questions for the Week: What voices have authority in your life? Has there ever been a time when you had to accept the authority of Jesus's voice to change or follow him in a new way? Describe that experience.

READ THE TEXT – Mark 1:21–34

The Structure

1. Capernaum Synagogue (Mark 1:20–28 // Luke 4:31–37)
 - 1.1. Teaching with Authority (Mark 1:20–22)
 - 1.1.1. Verb “teach” occurs 17x in Mark (Mark 1:21, 22; 2:13; 4:1, 2; 6:2, 6, 30, 34; 7:7; 8:31; 9:31; 10:1; 12:14, 35; 14:29)
 - 1.1.2. Noun “Teaching” occurs 5x in Mark (Mark 1:22, 27; 4:2; 11:18; 12:38)
 - 1.1.2.1. Authority (Mark 1:22, 27)
 - 1.1.2.2. Parables (Mark 4:2)
 - 1.1.2.3. Caused Amazement (Mark 1:22; 12:38)
 - 1.1.3. Noun “Authority” occurs 10x in Mark (Mark 1:22, 27; 2:10; 3:15; 6:7; 11:28[x2], 29, 33; 13:34)
 - 1.1.3.1. Teaching and Exorcism (Mark 1:22, 27 // Luke 4:32, 36)
 - 1.1.3.2. Authority to forgive sin demonstrated with healing (Mark 2:10 // Matt 9:6, 8 // Luke 5:24)
 - 1.1.3.3. Twelve given “authority to cast out demons” (Mark 3:15; 6:7)
 - 1.1.3.4. The chief priests, scribes and elders question Jesus's “authority” (Mark 11:27–33)
 - 1.2. Exorcism of the Man with an “Unclean Spirit” (Mark 1:23–28)
 - 1.2.1. Man with an Unclean Spirit (1:23–24)
 - 1.2.1.1. “Cried out” (Mark 1:23; 6:49)
 - 1.2.1.2. “What is between us and you, Jesus of Nazareth?” (Mark 1:24; see 1 Kgs 17:18)
 - 1.2.1.3. “Have you come to destroy us?” (Mark 1:24; see also Mark 3:6; 4:38; 8:35[x2]; 9:22, 41; 11:18; 12:9)
 - 1.2.1.4. “I know who you are” Spirits recognize Jesus (Mark 1:24, 31; 3:11; 5:7; see also James 2:19)
 - 1.2.1.4.1. “The holy one of God” (Mark 1:24 // Luke 4:34)
 - 1.2.1.4.1.1. Priestly title (Ps 106:16)
 - 1.2.1.4.1.2. Prophetic title (2 Kgs 4:9)
 - 1.2.1.4.2. “Son of God” (Mark 3:11 // Luke 4:41)
 - 1.2.1.4.3. “Son of the Most High” (Mark 5:7 // Luke 8:28)

- 1.2.2. Jesus's Rebuke (Mark 1:25; see also Zech 3:2; Ps 9:5; 68:30; 106:9–10; Job 26:10–12)
 - 1.2.2.1. "Be Silent" (Mark 1:25; 4:39)
 - 1.2.2.2. "Come out from him" (Mark 1:25, 34; 5:8; 9:25)
- 1.2.3. Response of the Spirit (Mark 1:26)
 - 1.2.3.1. Spirit "convulsed" the man (Mark 1:26; 9:26)
 - 1.2.3.2. Loud Voice (Mark 1:26; 5:7)
 - 1.2.3.3. Departed from the man (Mark 1:26, 34; 5:13; 7:30; 9:26)
- 1.2.4. Reaction of the Crowd (Mark 1:27–28)
 - 1.2.4.1. All were "amazed" (Mark 1:27; 10:24, 32)
 - 1.2.4.2. Questioning "What is this?" (Mark 1:27; see also Mark 4:41)
 - 1.2.4.3. Teaching with authority (Mark 1:27, see also 1:22;
 - 1.2.4.4. He even commands unclean spirits and they obey him
 - 1.2.4.5. His fame spread everywhere in the region of Galilee (1:28)
2. Peter's House (Mark 1:29–31)
 - 2.1. After Synagogue, they went to the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John (Mark 1:29)
 - 2.2. Peter's Mother-in-Law lay ill fevering and they tell Jesus (Mark 1:30; see 1 Cor 9:5)
 - 2.3. Jesus took her by the hand (Mark 1:31; 5:41; 9:27)
 - 2.4. "Raised" her (Mark 1:31) is "resurrection" language (see Mark 2:11–12; 3:3; 5:41; 6:14, 16; 9:27; 12:26; 14:28; 16:6)
3. Summary of Jesus's Healing Ministry (Mark 1:32–34)
 - 3.1. Evening (Mark 1:32)
 - 3.2. Bringing
 - 3.2.1. "Sick" (Mark 1:34)
 - 3.2.2. "Demon possessed" (Mark 1:32; 5:15, 16, 18)

Activities and Questions this Week:

- One strategy for reading exorcism stories among early Christians was to identify spirits with vices. For example, a spirit of anger, or a spirit of fornication, or a spirit of envy. The basic idea is that spirits afflict and affect human actions, even the actions of God's people.
 - The unclean spirit identifies totally with the afflicted person saying, "What have you to do with us?" (Mark 1:24)
 - Have you ever thought that you are defined by your vices? What sin have you worn like a label? What disordered desire has misled you from your creator?
- Why do you follow Jesus? What has he changed in your life?

Weekly Questions:

- What does this passage say about God?
- What stood out to you from the text this week?
- What does this text say about the Lord's reign and what it means to be his set apart people?

- Who are the characters of this story?
- What does this passage invite us to:
 - Do?
 - Think?
 - Feel?
- How did the sermon or passage encourage you to Love God and Love People?
- Which characters do you identify with most in the story? Why?