

I) V21-28 INTRO: Then they went into *Capernaum* and immediately on the Sabbath  
He

II) Mark began his presentation of his gospel by first revealing Jesus as the Son of  
God

He is the One that the prophets wrote about (Malachi and Isaiah)

He is the One that is the Anointed Messiah

He is the One that resisted and overcame the Temptations of the enemy

III) As we have seen, Jesus came with a simple and direct message

Repent and believe in the gospel

Repent, and trust in what the message of redemption declares

IV) The message of redemption when truly believed produces a transformed life

This is the message that God intends for all generations to hear

Because of this, Jesus began selecting men to entrust His message with

V) As we saw, Jesus selected four men to come and follow Him

He said to Simon, Andrew, James and John Follow Me, I will make you  
fishers of men

VI) The response on the part of all four of them was immediate

They left their nets and followed Him, without making excuses or delay

When God calls, we should respond immediately

VII) You see this in the call of Abram (Abraham)

Gen 12:1-4 Now the Lord said to Abram, “*Go forth* from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse.

And in you *all the families of the earth* will be blessed.” So Abram *went forth* as the Lord had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

VIII) You also see this is the life of Paul (the most famous conversion in history)

Paul was authorized by the high priest to arrest followers of Jesus

While on the road to Damascus, Jesus arrested him

IX) His encounter with Jesus left him unable to see

He was told to go to the house of Ananias in Damascus, and Ananias  
prayed for him

X) Saul was healed of his blindness, and the transformation was immediate

Ac 9:20 *Immediately* he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son

of God

- I) **There was no delay in these men: they left everything to follow Jesus**  
**In their case it was a profitable business**
  
- II) **This reminds us of a man named Matthew, a wealthy tax collector that Jesus called**  
**Mt 2:14 As He passed by, He saw Levi (Matthew) the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office. And He said to Him, Follow Me. So he arose and followed Him**
  
- III) **The call to follow Jesus was specific, as He was assembling His apostles**  
**The call can also be general, as He calls people everywhere to follow Him**  
**Lu 9:23 Then he said to *them all*: Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.**
  
- IV) **Some refuse to follow Him, thinking about all they might be giving up**  
**Instead, we should consider all that we will gain**  
**Jn 12:26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.**
  
- V) **In the case of James and John, it included leaving their father Zebedee**  
**They were willing to leave everything, putting Jesus first**
  
- VI) **At this time, they would not have understood clearly what they would gain**  
**Mt 19:29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life**
  
- VII) **Incidentally, this is something every believer has gained, sometimes without valuing it**
  
- VIII) **Jesus called these men to follow Him, and now we see Jesus demonstrating authority**  
**He will demonstrate His spiritual authority as He teaches God's word**  
**He will also reveal His authority as He casts out a demon**
  
- IX) **In these verses we see a contrast between how people react, and how demons react**  
**The people are amazed, interested and intrigued at the manner in which Jesus taught**
  
- X) **On the other hand, the demons are aware of Who He is, and are terrified**

The people were curious, but the demons reacted loudly to Who He was

They knew Jesus was their Judge, but the people did not

XI) V21-22 Then they went into *Capernaum* and immediately on the Sabbath He entered

Jesus is in Galilee: Capernaum is a city on the NW coastline of the Sea of Galilee

It was a prosperous fishing village located on the major highway from the W to the E

I) Capernaum is translated the village of Nahum

This may be a reference to it being the hometown of an OT prophet named Nahum

II) The word Nahum is translated consolation, or compassion

Some commentators think this refers to the character of the villagers: compassionate

III) It could also give us insight into Jesus and His compassionate ministry

Mk 1:40-41

It would be appropriate that our compassionate Savior live in a village of Compassion

IV) Capernaum was where Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John lived

Mt 4:13-16 says Capernaum became His headquarters after He was rejected in Nazareth

V) V21 He immediately entered the *synagogue* and taught

VI) We use the word synagogue today but perhaps need to know what it is

Literally, a synagogue is the place of gathering together

VII) The practice of going to synagogue began during the Babylonian captivity

The Babylonians destroyed and ransacked the Temple in 586 BC

While in Babylon the Jews began to gather for religious meetings in synagogues

VIII) The Temple remained the center of Jewish life, but many Jews lived many miles away

Synagogue was place of worship, study, community fellowship, and even legal court

They could be formed anywhere there were at least 10 Jewish men

IX) Over time, Synagogue became very important in Jewish community life

It served as a public school for boys, where they studied the Talmud (oral tradition of the Law), as well as writing, reading, and arithmetic.

For men, it was the center of advanced Theological training

X) V21 Mark tells us *immediately* on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught

This was not unusual for Jesus because He had the habit of attending synagogue

XI) V21 Jesus entered the synagogue and *taught*

There was something called the freedom of the synagogue

This made it possible for any qualified man to deliver a teaching from the

OT

XII) This freedom was also extended to visiting rabbis, and Jesus was becoming known

Lu 4:14-15 Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee and new of Him went out through all the surrounding region And He taught in their synagogues being glorified by all

I) Teaching God's word was part of the ministry Jesus performed amongst the people

His ministry was revealed by teaching, preaching, and healing

Mt 4:23 Jesus went about all Galilee, *teaching* in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and *healing* all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

II) The reason that He taught was so that they might discover who He was  
He taught the OT because God's Word points to Jesus

III) Mark made this clear in his introduction by quoting Malachi and Isaiah  
This is something that is of utmost importance: it is God's word that points to Jesus

Jn 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me.

IV) It is God's Word, rightly divided, taught and proclaimed that brings people to salvation

This is why Jesus *taught* and *preached* God's Word and didn't rely on His miracles

Jn 5:45-47 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuses you, even Moses, in whom you trust. For had you believed Moses, you would have believed Me: for he wrote of Me. But if you believe not his writings, how shall you believe My words?

Ro 10:17 Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God

V) V22 And they were astonished at his teaching for He taught them as one having authority

VI) They were *astonished* at His teaching

**ASTONISHED:** This is a very strong word: It means to be *struck with* amazement

They were amazed at the way Jesus spoke to them

VII) He taught them with spiritual and moral authority, and not like the scribes

**Scribes:** Religious experts whose normal manner of teaching was to quote other Rabbis

VIII) The Scribes were held in high honor in Jewish society

They were the authority on questions of faith and practice in Moses' law

IX) The key: Scribes did not exercise their own authority

They didn't give independent judgments but quoted other Rabbi's as authorities

They would did not exercise personal authority but referred to the traditions

X) **JESUS' TEACHING:** Was direct, personal and filled with heavenly authority

Mt 5: The Sermon on the Mount demonstrates this: You have *heard it said...but I tell you*

I) His approach to teaching would have caused quite a stir amongst the people

He did not quote others, but presented Himself as the absolute authority

II) Jesus taught with an authority from heaven

Jn 12:49-50 For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak; and I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak."

III) He was from heaven and could speak as an eyewitness

Jn 3:31-34 He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. And what *He has seen and heard*, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true. For He whom God has sent *speaks the words of God*, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.

IV) V23-24 Now there was a man in their synagogue with an *unclean spirit*

- V) As Jesus was teaching, a demonized man cried out in recognition of Who Jesus is  
 He interrupted Jesus and began literally shrieking at Him
- VI) The OT does not give us instances of demonic possession  
 It is in the NT that we see such a thing
- VII) Acts gives us two examples:  
 Ac 16:16-18 speaks of a girl in Philippi with the spirit of divination  
 Ac 19:11-16 speaks of Paul delivering demonized people, and the 7 sons of Sceva
- VIII) It is in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke that we see accounts of demons  
 When they encountered Jesus, they would reveal themselves in various ways
- IX) In this instance the demon began to scream at the top of his lungs
- X) V23 Mark tells us that this man had an unclean spirit  
 This demon drove him to impurity, vulgarity, and a sexually filthy lifestyle
- XI) As He is teaching, a demon possessed man makes his presence known
- XII) V23-24 He *cried* out let us alone (This speaks of wonder mixed with fear)  
 To raise a cry from the depth of the throat (the demon used the man's vocal chords)  
 THIS GIVES US INSIGHT: Demons actually go to church
- I) He is in a state of terror: Let us alone! What have *we* to do *with You?*  
 As a fallen angel, this demon is like Satan, foul and rejecting God's holy authority
- II) The demon recognizes Jesus and instantly makes it clear they have nothing in common  
 The demon is impure and provoked this man to a filthy life  
 He is the opposite of Jesus, and has nothing in common with Him
- III) Jesus is pure and would set him free to live a pure life  
 Heb 7:26 For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest (Jesus), holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens
- IV) They have nothing in common  
 Jn 14:30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.
- V) As followers of Jesus, we too are to have nothing in common with them

2 Co 6:14-15 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

VI) V24 Notice that he calls Him *Jesus of Nazareth*  
Because of its poor reputation and insignificance, this is used as a word of disdain  
He is actually showing Jesus disrespect

VII) V24 Did you *come to destroy us?* (Are You going to lock us up in eternal judgment, now)  
Demons know that Jesus was sent to accomplish  
1 Jn 3:8 the Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil

VIII) He wanted to know if Jesus was about to do that work at that moment  
The answer to that question is yes, but not now

IX) V24 I *know* who You are (Demons know exactly who Jesus is)  
Jas 2:19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!  
This has been called demon faith

X) They know who He is because He created the angelic host before they fell  
Col 3:16 By Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through Him and for Him.

I) When Satan rebelled he drew some of the angels with him  
Rev 12:4 (Satan) His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.  
These fallen angels *know* Who Jesus is but it does not save them!

II) Knowing Who Jesus is does not save a person  
Receiving the gift of salvation does

III) As He is teaching, He has the opportunity to set a captive free  
This is what He had been sent to do  
Ac 10:38 God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were *under the power of the devil*, because God was with him.

IV) V24 You are the Holy One of God  
The demon was fully aware of Jesus' divine authority, and greatly feared Him

- V) The spirit that was energizing the possessed man was fully revealed  
The voice behind the mask was exposed, and the people fully saw it
- VI) V25 But Jesus rebuked him saying *Be quiet* and come out of him  
There was no holy water, smoke, ritual or intense screaming
- VII) There was simply two commands: Be quiet, and come out of him  
The first command silenced the devil and the second drove him out
- VIII) Jesus wanted no testimony from Demons! He was not in league with Satan  
This would later become an accusation concerning Him  
Lu 11:18-20 If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? Because you say I cast out demons by Beelzebub. And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast *them* out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.
- IX) V26 And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice
- X) This evil spirit could not resist harming this man one last time  
He knew he had to leave, but he did so in a way to further injure him
- XI) Later in Mark, we will see something similar occur when Jesus delivered a young boy  
His father brought him to Jesus, and Jesus delivered him  
Mk 9:26 The spirit cried out convulsed him greatly, and came out of him.  
And he became as one dead so that many said *he is dead*
- I) It seems to me that when the devil loses someone, he might injure them one last time
- II) V27-28 Then they were all amazed so that they questioned among themselves saying
- III) Imagine what the people are thinking  
They are in their expression of a church service when this took place  
Screaming, Jesus identified, stern commanding, convulsion, deliverance,  
calm
- IV) The people are left in stunned silence as they begin to whisper amongst themselves  
What is this? What new doctrine is this?
- V) His teaching already awakened us to His scriptural depth, command, and insight



**But His work of delivering the one in bondage to Satan is more amazing  
Even the things we fear most deeply are subject to Him!**

**VI) These people were now left with no excuse:  
Even so, the city ultimately rejected Him as their Lord and Savior  
Their amazement, in the end, was worthless because they did not receive  
Him**

**VII) V28 Immediately His fame began to spread throughout all the region around  
Galilee  
Still, word got out and others heard of Jesus**