

INTRO: Recap Mark 1:1-20.

I. The Authority of Jesus. (v. 21-28)

A. (v. 21) "And they went into Capernaum..."

1. Before they entered Capernaum...

- a. Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount. (Matt 5-7)
- b. He heals a leper and centurion's servant. (Matt 8:1-13)

2. Capernaum.

- a. Located on the "Via Maris" ("Way of the Sea")
 - 1) Capernaum was the major center of trade and commerce in Galilee. The international trade route from Egypt through Israel to Syria and Mesopotamia, passed near Capernaum.
 - 2) It was located only three miles west of the Eastern border of Galilee at the Jordan River.
 - 3) The town became a port of entry and customs checkpoint
- b. Capernaum was a town much like Cardiff by the Sea and Encinitas.
 - 1) It was a beach town – though on a lake, not the Mediterranean.

B. Synagogue in Capernaum.

1. "synagogue" – Gr. "going with"
 - a. This speaks of going with other people in a congregational setting.
 - b. Since everyone couldn't go to the Temple, the Jews would get together at a synagogue.
 - c. They had to have 10 families, then they would make a synagogue.
 - d. The service consisted of:
 - 1) Prayer.
 - 2) The reading of the Word of God.
 - 3) Exposition by a rabbi.
 - 4) There was no singing and no sacrifice.
2. "He taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes."

- a. **Q** = Who were the scribes?...
- 1) They were entrusted with the application and interpretation of the Law and the Oral tradition.
 - a) In the 1st century it had become extremely complicated.
 - b) Previous scribes and rabbis added more and more burdens on the people.
 - 2) They had a threefold job...
 - a) Legislator.
 1. Determine what was valid law.
 - b) Judicial role.
 1. Pass sentence on people based on their interpretation of the law.
 - c) Teacher.
 1. They would teach in the synagogue.
 2. Because of their authority, they would lord over the people and address them as "Men of the earth," which means "lowly ones"... in other words "Dirt bags"!
 3. As they would teach, they would quote previous rabbis and scribes as the basis for their authority.
- b. It has been said that the scribes taught *from* authorities, but Jesus taught *with* authority.**
- 1) They were taught by the Word of God Himself!
 - 2) **KEY:** Jesus quoted nobody!
 - a) He would even say, "Thus says the Lord" because He was the Lord!
 1. He wouldn't say "Thus sayeth the Lord," but would say, "Verily, verily I say unto you..."!
 - b) He wouldn't quote other men's interpretations of the Law; He was the Lawgiver.
 - c) Others drew from the well; He was the Well.
 - d) There was no need for Him to affirm the truth; He was the Truth.
 - e) He didn't seek the support of other teachers; He Himself was sufficient in His teaching.
 - f) He not only spoke the truth; He was the Truth.

- g) He not only expounded upon the Word of God; He was the Word of God.
- c. Luke said, *"And they were astonished at his doctrine: **for his word was with power.**"* (Luke 4:32)
- d. **KEY:** When the Word of God came from the mouth of God (Jesus), it elicited two responses...
 - 1) Human realm.
 - a) The people were "astonished."
 - 2) Spiritual realm.
 - a) The demons freaked out!

C. Demonic Response to the Word of God. (v. 23-24)

1. Can you imagine this happening in Church?...
 - a. **Illust.** – I served at a church where a guy walked up to the pulpit during the sermon...
 - b. **NOTE:** Don't be surprised if the enemy wants to disrupt the service when the Spirit of God is working among us!
 - 1) **Illust.** – During worship – pornographic thoughts; to do lists come to mind; hunger pains; etc...
 - c. **KEY:** The enemy always wants to keep you from hearing the Word of God!
2. (v. 23) "...a man with an unclean spirit..."
 - a. There are people today that want to discount demon possession and say that these people had something wrong psychologically.
 - 1) They say that these people were suffering from mental disorders.
 - a) These people just believed that they were demon possessed, and so Jesus delivered them from their disease, and let them think they were delivered from their demons. Stupid!
 - 2) They say, "He knew perfectly well that He could never cure the man in trouble unless He assumed the reality of the disease. It was real to the man, and he had to be treated as real, or he couldn't be cured at all."
 - b. Jesus wouldn't rebuke a demon to come out of somebody unless there really was a demon.
 - c. People are always trying to put a label on a problem and put it under a Psychological Disorder, but that's foolish.
 - 1) Paul told the church in Ephesus, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against

powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6:12)

3. "Art thou come to destroy us?"

- a. According to Lenski¹, in the Greek, this is not a question, but it is a statement.
- b. Lit. "You did come to destroy us!", thus blaming Jesus.

4. "I know who You are, the Holy One of God."

- a. Just because someone knows who Jesus is doesn't mean their saved.
 - 1) This is a demon, and he knows who Jesus is.
 - 2) James said, "You believe that there is one God; you do well: the demons also believe and tremble."
- b. Knowing who Jesus is isn't salvation. Knowing Jesus is salvation.
 - 1) Knowing who a girl is doesn't make her your wife.
 - 2) Knowing her makes her your wife. "Adam knew Eve."
 - 3) The question isn't even, "Do you know Jesus?" but, "Does Jesus know you?"
 - a) Jesus said, "Many will say to me 'Lord, Lord,' but I will say to them, 'I never knew you.'"

5. **Their Terror.**

- a. "Leave us alone!"
- b. They knew who this guy was – "*what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth?... I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God!*"
- c. "Art thou come to destroy us?"
 - 1) They knew that Jesus had the authority to destroy them.
 - a) Cf. **Luke 8:31**.

D. Jesus' Has Absolute Authority Over Demons. (v. 25-26)

1. There was no argument!

- a. The demons didn't say "Make me!"; "I don't want to!"; "You can't make me!" No, they came out!

¹ Lenski. "Interpretation of Mark.", p. 78

2. (v. 25) "Hold thy peace."

- a. Greek lit. "Be muzzled; be gagged; shut up; shut your mouth."
 - 1) Martin Luther translates by the German equivalent of our "Shut up."²
 - 2) You can tell demons to shut up, but not people.
 - a) My wife was joking with me before we were married, and I laughed and said, "Shut up." And she looked at me and said, "Don't you ever tell me to shut up again. You tell dogs to shut up, not people."

b. Jesus has all authority over demons.

3. (v. 26) "And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him."

- a. "Cried with a loud voice" – lit. "he yelled with a great yell."
 - 1) What an eerie picture. I can't imagine what this guy was going through.
- b. When God rids evil of your life, it might feel like being "torn," but, you'll be free.
- c. This is the 1st miracle in the Gospel of Mark.
 - 1) It fits so perfectly with the theme of the 1st half of the Gospel...
 - a) Jesus proving Himself to be the Christ, God's Son, by His mighty teaching and deeds.

4. (v. 27) "What new doctrine is this?"

- a. His teaching was not "new" in the sense of time.
 - 1) New car; New house.
- b. His teaching was new in the sense of quality.
 - 1) Wuest said, "Compared to the stilted, staid, dry as dust rabbinical droning, this teaching of Jesus was like the fragrance of a field of clover in the springtime. It was fresh with the dew of heaven upon it."³
 - 2) This teaching was fresh.

5. "For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they do obey Him."

² Wuest, Kenneth. "Volume 1 – Gospel of Mark", p. 34

³ Wuest, Kenneth. "Volume 1 – Gospel of Mark", p. 35

- a. "Commands" – military term.
 - b. The people were thinking, "Wow! This guy teaches with authority, and He acts with authority."
 - c. Remember, Mark is writing to the Romans, and they wanted to know about what kind of authority Jesus had.
6. (v. 28) "Immediately His fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about Galilee."
- a. His "fame" is not in the sense of a Hollywood star, but it just means that news got around.

II. Taking Jesus Home. (v. 29-34)

A. (v. 29) "When they came out of the synagogue, they entered into the house."

- 1. After church, Jesus went home with them.
- 2. Does Jesus go home with you?

B. (v. 30) "Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever."

- 1. "Lay sick of a fever" – Gr. "being down for some time, burning with a fever."
- 2. From this passage, we learn a couple things about Peter:
 - a. He was married.
 - 1) According to 1 Corinthians 9:5, his wife was living at the time, and she accompanied him on his missionary journeys.
 - 2) This is very inconvenient for Catholicism, which says that Peter is the first Pope and demands celibacy of its priests.
 - 3) Clement of Alexandria says that Peter's wife's name was Perpetua, though we don't know for sure.⁴
 - 4) Fourth Century church historian Eusebius cites Clement of Alexandria in recording Peter's wife's martyrdom: "They say, accordingly, that when the blessed Peter saw his own wife led out to die, he rejoiced because of her summons and her return home, and called to her very encouragingly and comfortingly, addressing her by name, and saying, 'Oh thou, remember the Lord.'"⁵

⁴ Fausset's Bible Dictionary, Electronic Database Copyright (c)1998 by Biblesoft

⁵ Eusebius, *Church History*, III, 30, 2, in *A Select Library of Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church* (Second Series, vol. 1. Philip Schaff and Henry Wace, eds. The Christian Literature Company, 1890), p. 162.

- b. His mother-in-law lived in his house.
 - 1) Since she is living with them, it would seem that she had no other children, except Andrew, and no home of her own.
- c. Simon's brother Andrew lived with them.
 - 1) This may mean that Andrew was not married.
- d. Peter's father is mentioned in Matt 16:17 and John 21:15, but in a way that leads us to conclude that he was probably dead, and we never hear of Peter's mother.

C. (v. 32) "At evening, when the sun did set."

- 1. The Jewish day started at Sundown.
- 2. So now it is the end of the Sabbath day, and the beginning of Sunday.

D. This was just one day in the ministry!

- 1. Jesus preaches the Sermon on the Mount. (Matt 5-7)
- 2. He heals a leper and the centurion's servant. (Matt. 8:1-13)
- 3. He teaches in the synagogue.
- 4. He casts out a demon.
- 5. He went to Simon and Andrew's house.
- 6. He heals Simon's mother-in-law.
- 7. He heals all of these people that evening.
 - a. This was a long day in the ministry!
 - b. We saw Jesus teach with authority, and prove His authority.

III. The Mission of Jesus. (v. 35-39)

A. Solitary Prayer. (v. 35)

1. Jesus was so tired, you would think He must have...

- a. Caught up on some sleep. No.
- b. Sleep in the next day and get some Zzzs. No.
- c. Had Simon bring Him breakfast in bed. No.

2. Jesus received strength by waiting upon God the Father.

- a. Cf. **Isaiah 40:28-31; 50:4.**
- b. **NOTE:** It is an inescapable fact of history that men that were used by God have had a solitary prayer life!

- 1) Cf. **Matthew 6:5-8**.
- c. **KEY:** Jesus' authority and power came from a life of prayer!

B. Preaching Missionary. (v. 36-39)

1. *"Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth."*

a. *"For therefore came I forth."*

1) Where did Jesus come from?... The Father in heaven.
(John 6:32-40)

2) Jesus knew that He was a missionary sent from God.

a) "Missionary" = "sent one"

b) Jesus Was the First Missionary.

1. Sent by God.

a. Hebrews 3:1 – "the Apostle"

b. John 5:30.

2. Left Heaven.

a. Isaiah 6:1-4 (cf. John 12:41); John 6:51.

3. Left His Glory.

a. John 17:5.

4. Became Flesh.

a. John 1:14; Philippians 2:6-8.

5. Dwelt among His people. (John 1:14)

a. Embraced their culture, language, food, customs, holidays, clothes, style, etc...

b. Reached out to social outcasts and sinners. (Mark 2:15-17)

6. Loved those that rejected Him by taking up His cross.

a. John 1:11; Romans 5:6-8.

3) KEY: He has now called a people out for Himself through which He could *incarnationally* relate His love to the world!

a) **John 20:21**.

1. **Q** = Do you see yourself as a missionary?

- b. Jesus is saying, "I came from God to preach the Word."
 - 1) Jesus is saying that it's more important to preach the Gospel than to heal the sick.
 - 2) He has even placed His Word above His own name. (Psalm 138:2)
 - 3) Jesus' great emphasis was the Word of God.
 - 4) He wasn't into healing meetings and all the hype.
 - 5) "That I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth."

2. Though there were other good opportunities, He fulfilled His calling!

- a. **Q** = What are you called to be?... Don't try and be anything else!
 - 1) **KEY: *There is no higher calling than to be what Jesus wants you to be!***

C. (v. 39) "And He preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out demons."

- 1. This is one of those summary statements that Mark gives to show the end of a section. Mark is going to transition here.
 - 2. "Throughout all Galilee."
 - a. Like I said before, Josephus the Historian said...
 - 1) "There were 204 villages in the area of the Galilee and each with a population of at least 15,000 people"
 - 2) Thus, Jesus was within reach of 3 ½ million people.
- D. It seems that it was during this time that Jesus went by the Sea of Galilee, and Peter gave it *all* to Jesus. (Luke 5:1-11)