

# MARK - A Teacher With Authority

A conversation between Pastors Danielle & Perry

## Mark 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, *“What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”*

**“Be quiet!”** said Jesus sternly. **“Come out of him!”** The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, *“What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.”* News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

*The New International Version. (2011). (Mk 1:21–28). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.*

## Different Responses

Why don't we see what Jesus is preaching in this moment?

Mark's intention with his gospel narrative is to demonstrate the responses of the crowd. If we pay attention to the responses of the audience, we can see how actually begins to do what Jesus commanded.

Many people were amazed, but does amazement translate to obedience?

## Authority

When rabbis spoke at that time, they would appeal to the authority from the past rather than appealing to their own authority.

Jesus walks up in there and stands on his own authority and demonstrates his authority by commanding demons to leave.

## **Revelation**

The demons already know who Jesus is and where he is from, and recognize his true identity and power. They know he is the Holy One of God — the divine human who was sent to restore the world to the creator God.

The juxtaposition between the fear of demons and the amazed but complacent people is an intentional exposition that reveals the bluntness of human hearts.

The demons know the mission of Jesus is to destroy them and the spiritual evil. They know and they're aware that their time is limited. One day, evil will be judged and cast out of this world.

Jesus' presence can show up and speak to demonic presence immediately and convict it. On a regular basis, you carry with you the Holy Spirit, and you are faced with spiritual evil along with that. You're tempted to give up on people, lose hope, to hurt other people, to battle with proclivities and other demonic assailments.

You can fight for your relationships, your family, your marriage, your children. The spiritual evil wants you to give up, but it's not more powerful than the Holy Spirit in our community. We fight, but not alone; we fight together.

And when you fight, address the spirits at play, not the humans.

## **Obedience**

The demon on that day didn't have a choice but to obey Jesus. One day, all spiritual evil will be confronted by King Jesus, and on that day, it will be destroyed.

The humans however, do have a choice — until a certain point. One day, our opportunity to choose will one day stop. On that day, we will either follow suit with spiritual evil or live in Jesus' perfection.

## **Amazement ≠ Obedient Loyalty**

As stated earlier, amazement doesn't equal leaving their old lives and following the Messiah.

When we look at ourselves, where do we stand in the picture of contrast? Do we just stand in amazement and help things go viral or do we drop our nets and follow him?

Maybe we listen to the coolest YouTube or TikTok preacher and be amazed and have our emotions or intellect tickled, but then what do we do with that?

Do we roll up our sleeves and start working together? Do we leave what we were once invested in and pledge our allegiance to a new King?

## **Following Together**

As stated in previous weeks, there is no such thing as individual Christianity. By definition, Christianity is lived out in community by following Jesus & fishing together.

Jesus calls us to get out from behind our computer screens & podcasts and build community with other people who are difficult to be around.

It is in community that we experience the authority of Jesus & the hope of Jesus.

When we're in community, other believers are a means of grace through which we can experience both rebuke and hope to win. It is through other believers that we can encounter Jesus. We can become free in community where His Word, His Power, and His Spirit live.

## **Our Response**

Jesus commands spirits that must obey, but when he commands humans, he doesn't force them to obey. The God of the universe doesn't control us.

He will do everything he can to call you to obedience and show you the better way, but he ultimately leaves it up to us.

And only the willing, loving, surrender to the authority of King Jesus is what is going to set us free. Jesus longs for humans to "kiss the hand of the king (Psalm 2)" because then and only then, will we be able to image the God who loves us and brings blessing to all nations, a blessing to everyone around us.

Obedience looks like taking our amazement and applying it toward following Jesus & fishing together.

### **Where are we in this picture of contrast?**

- Are we sitting in fear of Jesus & his commands?
- Are we sitting in complacent amazement?
- Are we leaving our past commitments to death and pledging allegiance to the King and fishing with him?

