

Supernaturally Transformed Summer Sermon Series

June 22, 2024

Opening Monologue

Our society is fascinated by UFO's and paranormal activity. Humanity has been on the search since the beginning of time for something, someone or someplace beyond the here and now. Why... and what is this all about?

We (humanity) have a hole in our souls to fill. This fallen broken world can't be all there is right? Most people want, crave and hope for something beyond the confines of reality and brokenness.

There is a tension in this world... the villain versus the superhero. We cheer for the superhero, but too many times it seems like evil is winning. There must be more beyond the stars... we search, and battle through a dark world filled with disappointments, pain, anxiety and fear. It comes down to this question... at least in my mind. Who will rescue us from this mess?

There was a man, a Savior, a King in the ancient scriptures known in the Bible named Jesus. He became famous around the world without any forms of social media or news outlets. This Jesus was a Supernatural transformer of people's lives. He was so popular, and did so many miracles that even the religious leaders of the day despised him because he took their fame and power away.

"Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them. Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him." (Matthew 4:23-25)

I invite you along to learn more about Jesus over the next 10 weeks. If you long for hope beyond this world... or if you need to be transformed because no one has been able to help you; I invite you to open up your heart to Jesus.

In Christ,
Rev. Brad Standfest

To Listen to this week's Sermon: "Supernaturally Transformed" Go to the Sermon tab here in our APP or use the links to our website or YouTube Channel where you can also listen to our Sermons:

Web: <https://www.almontvineyardchurch.org/media>

You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/@almontvineyardchurch>

Key Sermon Text

Mark 1:21-28 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+1%3A21-28&version=NIV>

Matthew 4:23-25 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+4%3A23-25&version=NIV>

Luke 4:18-19
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+4%3A18-19&version=NIV>

Transformation

TRANSFORMATION The process or act of profound and significant change, resulting in a new state or form. In a spiritual or personal growth context, transformation refers to a fundamental and positive shift in one's beliefs, attitudes, values, behaviors, or identity.

TRANSFORMATION An inward renewal and reshaping of the mind through which a Christian's inner person is changed into the likeness of Christ. Paul told the Roman believers, "Be transformed by the renewing of your minds" (Rom 12:2). As one's Christian life progresses, the person should gradually notice that his or her thought life is being changed from Christlessness to Christlikeness.

Transformation does not happen overnight—regeneration is instantaneous, but transformation is not. Christians are transformed to Christ’s image gradually as they spend time beholding him in intimate fellowship. Eventually, they will begin to mirror the one they behold. Paul said, “We all with unveiled face, mirroring the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image, from one degree of glory to another, even as from the Lord who is the Spirit” (2 Cor 3:18—from the Greek). This does not come from conscious imitation but from spiritual communion with the Lord. The result will be beyond our expectations. The apostle John said it well: “We can’t even imagine what we will be like when Christ returns. But we do know that when he comes we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is” (1 Jn 3:2, NLT)

Commentary of Main Texts

Mark 1:21-28

JESUS TEACHES WITH GREAT AUTHORITY

Earlier in chapter 1, Satan attacked Jesus in the wilderness. Then Mark directed our attention to Jesus’ counterattack. He carried the spiritual warfare into the domain of Satan, to those controlled by evil spirits. As will be the case repeatedly, the battle took place in a synagogue on the Sabbath. Perhaps this shows that Satan can be active even in our houses of worship.

Mark draws our attention to the conclusion drawn by the eyewitnesses to what Jesus did that day in Capernaum. The people were struck by his authority. Not only were they amazed by his application of the Scriptures to their own lives, but they were equally amazed by how he fearlessly confronted demonic power.

Our familiarity with the words of Jesus should never lull us into thinking that they have lost power over the centuries. **Jesus remains as powerful today as ever, but we must carefully listen and follow all he says to us.**

1:21 They went to Capernaum. Capernaum, located on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee, was the largest of the many fishing towns surrounding the lake. Jesus had recently moved to

Capernaum from Nazareth (Matthew 4:12-13). Capernaum was a thriving town with great wealth as well as great sin and decadence. Because it was the headquarters for many Roman troops, heathen influences from all over the Roman Empire were pervasive. This was a needy place for Jesus to challenge both Jews and non-Jews with the gospel of God's kingdom.

And when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the syna-gogue and began to teach. The temple in Jerusalem was too far for many Jews to travel for regular worship, so many towns had synagogues serving both as places of worship and as schools. Beginning in the days of Ezra, about 450 B.C., a group of ten Jewish families could start a synagogue. There, during the week, Jewish boys were taught the Old Testament law and Jewish religion (girls could not attend). Each Saturday, the Sabbath, the Jewish men would gather to hear prayers, the Scriptures read, and an interpretation from a scribe. Because there was no permanent rabbi or teacher, it was customary for the synagogue leader to ask visiting teachers to speak. This is why Jesus often spoke in the synagogues in the towns he visited.

1:22 They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. The Greek word translated "astounded" is a strong word; it could also be translated "astonished" or "amazed." The people were completely amazed by Jesus' teaching. The Jewish teachers (the scribes) often quoted from well-known rabbis to give their words more authority. But Jesus didn't have that need. Because Jesus was the Son of God, he knew exactly what the Scriptures said and meant. He was the ultimate authority. The people had never heard such teaching. He created the urgency and alarm that a real prophet would cause, not the discussion and arguments of scribal tradition. He confronted the people with the claims of God on their lives.

ASTOUNDING AUTHORITY

**Jesus' authority extended to every area of spiritual life and concern. He had

- authority in his teaching (1:22, 27)
- authority over demons (1:25; 5:6-7)

- authority to forgive sins (2:10)
- authority over the temple and its administration (11:28–32)
- authority to continue through the disciples the attack against demonic power (3:15; 6:7)

Have you given him authority over your life?

The “scribes” (called “teachers of the law” or “lawyers” in some Bible versions) were the legal specialists in Jesus’ day. They interpreted the law but were especially concerned about the “halakah” or “rules” for life that came to be as binding as God’s written law in the Torah. The scribes were the forerunners of the office of rabbi. Their self-assured authority, in fact, became a stumbling block for them, for they denied Jesus’ authority to reinterpret the law, and they rejected Jesus as the Messiah because he did not agree with nor obey all of their traditions.

1:23-24 Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit. Jesus’ teaching, his powerful authority, and the astonishment of the people just then prompted an outburst by a man who was possessed by an evil spirit. Evil (unclean) spirits, or demons, are ruled by Satan. They work to tempt people to sin. They were not created by Satan, because God is the Creator of all. Rather, the evil spirits and demons are fallen angels who joined Satan in his rebellion and thus became perverted and evil. The Greek is literally “in a spirit, an unclean one.” The evil spirit had entered the man’s body, had taken up residence, and now controlled him. Though not all disease comes from Satan, sometimes demons can cause a person to become mute, deaf, blind, or insane. But in every case where demons confronted Jesus, they lost their power. Thus God limits what evil spirits can do; they can do nothing without his permission. During Jesus’ life on earth, demons were allowed to be very active to demonstrate once and for all Christ’s power and authority over them.

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!” This cry from the possessed man was the voice of the demon—a horrible sound. The evil spirit knew two facts—that Jesus had indeed come to destroy them (and their power) and that Jesus was the Holy One of God. The demon (indeed all the demons, for the demon used the word “us”) knew Jesus was the Messiah. While the people in the synagogue were astounded at Jesus’ teaching and

wondered who this man could be, the demon knew. At this time, people believed that to know a person's precise hidden name was to be able to gain control over the person. Thus the demon's first attempt against Jesus was to state his name in public. The demons knew that Jesus' coming marked the beginning of the end of their power, but they tried every way they knew to break him. Their master, Satan, had tried and failed—the demons would try and fail as well. By including this event in his Gospel, Mark was establishing Jesus' credentials, showing that even the spiritual underworld recognized Jesus as the Messiah.

DEMONS

A man possessed by a demon was in the synagogue where Jesus was teaching. This man made his way into the place of worship and verbally abused Jesus. It is naive to think that we will be sheltered from evil in the church. Satan is happy to invade our presence wherever and whenever he can. But Jesus' authority is much greater than Satan's; where Jesus is present, demons cannot stay for long. The demons recognized Jesus' credentials and authority. The submission that the demons showed here and in 5:1–10 would have registered with the Romans (Mark's primary audience), who knew and feared the gods of the underworld (Hades).

Compare this view of the demons' encounter with Christ to the false views presented in the fictional media today. Movies show demons as enlarging in power when confronted by the power of Christ and true faith. In reality, demons diminish when they are thus confronted. In movies, demons ridicule and ignore true faith and the authority of Christ. In reality, they have no choice but to succumb.

1:25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” The Greek word translated “rebuke” means to reprove or shame. Jesus judged the demon and then expelled him. He didn't use incantations or magic words; he simply and sternly commanded him to be silent—a strong word in the Greek that could mean “to muzzle.” The word is used elsewhere for muzzling an ox (for example, 1 Corinthians 9:9 and 1 Timothy 5:18). Mark also used the word in Jesus' command when stilling the storm (4:39). A modern alternative would be “Shut up!”—a colloquial translation that also gives Jesus'

attitude toward Satan. The demon was like a boxer, dancing and jabbing to find a weakness; Jesus was the champion who knocked him out with one punch: “Be silent!”

Why did Jesus tell the demon to be silent? Mark portrays Jesus as silencing the demon almost with a tone of insisting on secrecy (see also 1:34). He also commanded some of those he healed not to publicize their healing (see 1:44; 5:43). He even ordered the disciples to keep insights about his true nature and glory to themselves (see 8:27–30; 9:2–9). Two explanations may help us understand why Jesus asked this:

1. Jesus wanted to contain the enthusiasm for a political messiah. He did not wish to be the people’s king in the way they desired, nor did he want to be a military leader.

2. To confess Jesus’ deity without a proper understanding of his crucifixion is partial and invalid. He did not want people to wildly proclaim him to be God’s Son unless they understood the meaning of his death for them on the cross. This would explain why even his disciples lacked understanding until his resurrection.

To silence the demon was not enough, for Jesus wanted to free the man possessed by the demon. So Jesus next commanded, Come out of him! again demonstrating his power and authority over Satan and his demons.

1:26 The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. Without any recourse except to submit to a higher authority, the evil spirit came out of the man. But first, to show its anger and protest, the evil spirit shook the man violently. This could have been a severe spasm or a blow that thrust the man to the ground. With a final shriek, the demon left. The true purpose of demon possession is revealed by this behavior. Demons have a deep-seated desire to do violence and to destroy all who are made in the image of God.

Many psychologists dismiss all accounts of demon possession as a primitive way to describe mental illness. Although throughout history mental illness has often been wrongly diagnosed as demon

possession, clearly a hostile outside force controlled the man described here. Mark emphasized Jesus' conflict with evil powers to show his superiority over them, so he recorded many stories about Jesus driving out evil spirits. Jesus didn't have to conduct an elaborate exorcism ritual. His word was enough to send out the demons. Jesus' power over demons reveals his absolute power over Satan, even in a world that seems to be in Satan's control. Satan is presently under God's authority; when God chooses to command, Satan must obey. Satan's workings are only within God's prescribed limits; he can do no more evil than God allows. In the end, Satan and all his demons will be tormented in the lake of fire forever (Revelation 20:10).

1:27 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 evil spirits and they obey him." The word "amazed" in the Greek (ethambethesan) carries with it a note of fear or alarm. The people were astonished at Jesus' teaching and authority (1:22). Jesus' display of his authority in the showdown with a demon caused a certain terror in the people at what they had witnessed. With a simple and stern command, the evil spirit obeyed and the possessed man was set free.

The people called Jesus' teaching new; compared to the dry sermons they usually heard from their scribes, his teaching challenged them. Jesus taught with authority; he spoke to the powerful underworld with authority. Surely this man was someone to watch closely.

1:28 At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee. The people who left the gathering in the large synagogue in Capernaum had witnessed an authoritative and captivating new teacher with unheard-of power. The news spread at once across the region of Galilee. Jesus' growing popularity becomes a major theme in chapter 1 (see 1:33, 37, 45). This popularity among the common folk stands in glaring contrast to the religious leaders' opposition expressed in 2:1–3:6.

Matthew 4:23-25

JESUS PREACHES THROUGHOUT GALILEE

4:23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their

synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, visiting the various towns and villages. He was teaching, preaching, and healing, the three main aspects of his ministry. “Teaching” shows Jesus’ concern that people learn; “preaching” shows his concern for commitment; and “healing” shows his concern for physical wholeness. Jesus’ healing miracles authenticated his teaching and preaching; they proved that he truly was from God.

When Jesus arrived in a town, he first went to the synagogue. Synagogues were established during the Exile to give Jews places to assemble and worship because they couldn’t go to the temple. Synagogues later became centers for teaching and preaching. Most towns that had ten or more Jewish families had a synagogue. The building served as a religious gathering place on the Sabbath and as a school during the week. The leader of the synagogue was more an administrator than a preacher. His job was to invite rabbis to teach and preach. In the synagogue, there were two types of messages: (1) exposition or teaching—done while the leader sat; (2) exhortation or preaching—done while the leader stood. Thus, Jesus had opportunity to share the good news of the kingdom with the Jews who came to the synagogues. The “good news” was that the kingdom of heaven had arrived. It was customary to invite visiting rabbis like Jesus to speak, but Jesus’ earthshaking message and powerful miracles (healing every disease and sickness among the people in each village) set him apart from the others.

4:24 So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them. Jesus’ teaching and healing caused a stir among the people. Those who heard him told family and friends, who told others, so that the news spread throughout all Syria. “Syria” may refer to the area to the north of Galilee, indicating that Jesus’ fame had spread beyond the borders of Palestine. The Romans used “Syria” to refer to all of Palestine, except for the region of Galilee, which was under the independent administration of Herod Antipas. Thus, Jesus’ fame spread through Galilee and throughout all

of Palestine.

Jesus became well known very quickly. Certainly his acclaimed ability to heal people of diseases caused people to bring sick family and friends to him. Jesus cured various diseases and pains (probably undiagnosed by doctors), demoniacs (people possessed by demons), epileptics (those having seizures or other unexplained behavior not related to demon possession), and paralytics (those who had become paralyzed).

Why did Jesus perform physical healings? As Creator, Jesus wanted people to have health and wholeness rather than illness. The healings also showed Jesus' compassion for suffering people and revealed that the kingdom had arrived in power and presence. Although Jesus refused to do "signs" at the whim of doubting religious leaders, he did perform miracles of healing that caused many to believe in him.

4:25 Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him. Large crowds came to Jesus from all over the region of Galilee where Jesus was concentrating his ministry. "The Decapolis" refers to a league of ten Gentile cities east of the Sea of Galilee that had joined together for trade and mutual defense. "The region across the Jordan" most likely refers also to Gentile territory. The city of Jerusalem was in the region of Judea. People came from this region to the south as well as from its leading city. The news about Jesus was out, and Jews and Gentiles were coming long distances to hear him. The words "followed him" may or may not refer to becoming disciples. Some simply followed him from place to place to hear him speak and see his miracles. Some who followed surely also came to believe in him, accepting the Good News about the kingdom.

A description of Jesus' ministry in Galilee

Teaching in their synagogues: The customs of the synagogue in that day gave Jesus many opportunities to teach, because they would often give a visitor—especially a distinguished one—a chance to speak.

"After the address there came a time for talk, and questions, and discussion. The synagogue was the ideal place in which to get a new

teaching across to the people.” (Barclay)

Teaching ... preaching the gospel of the kingdom: The difference between teaching and preaching is one of emphasis and manner, not of content.

“Preaching is the uncompromising proclamation of certainties; teaching is the explanation of the meaning and significance of them.” (Barclay)

All kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease: Jesus’ ability to heal those with all different kinds of diseases demonstrates that He has authentic power over the damage done by the fall of man. His authority over demons (and those who were demon-possessed) shows He has authentic power over all creation.

This is the first mention of the demon-possessed in the New Testament, and the concept is rarely recorded in the Old Testament (Saul was one example, who was troubled by a spirit, as in 1 Samuel 18:10, 19:9). There is obviously much more record of demon possession on the pages of the New Testament than either in the Old Testament or in the contemporary western world. Many suggestions have been offered for this fact.

- Some believe that God gave the devil greater allowance to afflict man in this way, to give greater evidence of Jesus’ credentials as Messiah.
- Some believe that God allowed the devil a greater allowance to afflict man in this way to rebuke the Sadducees, who did not believe in supernatural beings such as angels and demons.
- Some believe that there was no greater allowance in those days at all, and that there is the same amount of demon possession today, although it is not recognized as such.
- Some believe that there is simply far less demon possession in cultures that have been under the influence of the gospel for hundreds of years, and far more in pagan and/or animistic cultures.
- Some believe that Satan himself is not interested in a strategy of widespread demon possession of humans in the contemporary western world, because he finds anonymity and spiritual skepticism more effective tools.

Great multitudes followed Him: Jesus had a purpose for allowing

such dramatic miracles to attract great multitudes. He wanted to teach the multitudes, not simply to impress them with miracles.

“With every allowance for the exaggeration of a popular account, this speaks to an extraordinary impression.” (Bruce)

“Christ’s fame spread very far doubtless, because of the good he did, and the miracles he wrought ... all here again can signify no more than very many that were indisposed and ill affected as to their bodily health.” (Clarke)

“People from all these areas ‘followed’ Jesus. Despite contrary arguments ‘follow’ does not necessarily indicate solid discipleship. It may, as here, refer to those who at some particular time followed Jesus around in his itinerant ministry and thus were loosely considered disciples.” (Carson)

Resources: Rev. Brad Standfest, David Guzik, Matthew, David Guzik’s Commentaries on the Bible, Bruce B. Barton, Matthew, Life Application Bible Commentary

Sermon Notes:

Today we are going to start a Summer Sermon Series called Supernaturally Transformed

We live in a society that’s looking for something beyond this world

People are fascinated by UFO’s and the possibility that there might be life beyond this world

People are intrigued by Paranormal activity

If you trace Human History... People have always looked for something beyond this world

Why do people look for Something/ Someone beyond this world?

Because this world doesn’t satisfy the soul

“The term “supernatural” refers to phenomena or entities that are beyond or outside the realm of the natural world and the laws of nature. These phenomena or entities cannot be explained by scientific understanding or natural laws. The supernatural often includes concepts such as ghosts, spirits, deities, magic, miracles, and other elements typically associated with the mystical, the divine, or the unexplainable. The supernatural is a common theme in mythology, religion, folklore, and various forms of fiction.”

In this Series we are going to look at One Man, King, Savior, who did things No one could explain...

We will see Jesus Supernaturally Transform person after person and situation after situation...

Jesus released people from Fear and Anxiety, Incurable illnesses, Physical conditions, Burdens... and even Dangerous Situations...

If you don't believe in Jesus as Savior... I would highly encourage you to keep an opened mind and listen to what happens...

Most Historians & other world religions call Jesus a Supernatural Miracle Worker...

Here's what I can Promise you: When No One else can Restore, Help, Heal, Bring Relief, Bring Peace, or Reenergize You... Jesus can Transform your life

We are going to hop into the Word of God

Before we dive in, let me give you some biblical context...

After Jesus' baptism to fulfill righteousness... he was led into the desert and overcame Satan's temptations over a 40 day span. Jesus was prepared to reveal himself to the world as he was filled with the Holy Spirit. After calling 12 to be his disciples; he announced his message to the religious leaders and the whole world by saying this:

Luke 4:18-19 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

Read Mark 1:21-23

They saw something in Jesus they never saw before- Authority!

Read Mark 1:23-28

Read Matthew 4:23-25

Here are the Spiritual Applications we should take away from Gods Word Today

Supernaturally Transformed Spiritual Applications

- Jesus had Supernatural authority no one had ever seen before
 - Jesus has authority over demons/demonic powers
 - Jesus displayed great compassion & mercy over multitudes of people & Healed them
 - Jesus has authority over sickness, diseases, and infirmities
 - Jesus has the ability to transform your life or situation
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Devotional Questions

Supernaturally Transformed— How?

Read Mark 1:21-28

- 1.How do the people react to Jesus' teaching even before the exorcism occurs? What does it say about His manner of teaching?
- 2.Describe the interaction between Jesus and the unclean spirit. What does the spirit recognize about Jesus?
- 3.What does it mean that Jesus taught them as one who had authority, and not as the teachers of the law? How does this compare to other teachings they might have heard?
- 4.How does Jesus' command to the unclean spirit and His ability to cast it out reflect on His authority and identity?

Read Matthew 4:23-25

- 5.In what ways did Jesus' miracles of healing serve a purpose beyond the physical restoration of those He healed? Consider the spiritual, social, and emotional implications of His healing.

6. In what ways did Jesus' miracles of healing serve a purpose beyond the physical restoration of those He healed? How might these healings transform their lives?