



Astonished by Jesus

MARK 1:21–28 • SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026

Jesus teaches with astonishing authority—and exercises it to confront evil and set someone free. Seeing how Jesus uses his authority helps us discover what kind of Lord we can trust.

READ THE PASSAGE FIRST • Mark 1:21–28

Read once to follow the events. Read again to notice the different voices and responses.

01 NOTICE

What does Mark actually show us? • Observe and compare

In verses 21–22 and 27, what astonishes the people? What does Mark tell us about Jesus’ teaching—and what does he leave unsaid?

Trace the encounter in verses 23–26. Who speaks, what does each say, and what happens to the man? What changes from the beginning of the scene to the end?

02 LISTEN

What is the passage revealing? • Interpret and evaluate

The unclean spirit calls Jesus “the Holy One of God” (v. 24). Compare that title with the voice at Jesus’ baptism (1:11). What might Mark want readers to recognize before the synagogue crowd does?

The crowd notices Jesus’ authority; the spirit obeys; yet neither is described as following him. What is the difference between recognizing authority, being compelled to obey, and freely trusting someone?

From Astonishment to Trust

NOTICE / LISTEN / RESPOND

03 RESPOND

How might what you discover reshape your life? • Apply and create

SEE — Read Mark 1:21–28 again. Notice especially how Jesus uses his authority.

WONDER — What about this kind of authority surprises you or challenges your assumptions about Jesus?

TRUST — Name one situation in which a clearer picture of Jesus’ character could change the way you respond. What would one small act of trust look like?

GO DEEPER BEYOND SUNDAY’S SERMON

Read Mark 2:1–12 and Mark 10:42–45. Jesus’ authority includes forgiving sins and redefining greatness through service. Compare these scenes with Mark 1:21–28.

Across these three passages, what patterns do you see in what Jesus has authority to do and whom his authority benefits?

IN COMMUNITY DISCUSS AND DISCERN TOGETHER

1. When have you seen authority used to protect or help someone grow? What made that authority worthy of trust?
2. The synagogue crowd was amazed, but Mark does not tell us whether they became disciples. Why might astonishment fade without deeper attention and trust?
3. Imagine a friend who finds any talk of “submitting to authority” unsettling because of past experiences. How could Jesus’ actions in this passage reshape the conversation—without dismissing their concerns?

THIS WEEK A SMALL PRACTICE OF TRUST

Use the five short encounters on your sermon card (Mark 1:21–28; 1:40–45; 2:1–12; 4:35–41; 10:42–45). Each day ask: What do I see? What makes me wonder? What does this help me entrust to Jesus?

My next step this week: _____