



‘Now!’ Sermon Series

Sermon #5

Sunday, May 5th, 2024

‘The Actions of Authority!’

Mark 1:21-34

Last week in ‘NOW’ sermon series:

- Last Sunday, we looked at Mark 1:14-20 when Jesus called His first disciples.
 - Last Sunday’s Sermon was entitled *‘The Right Formula for Kingdom Building Ministry!’*
 - I asked the question: *How does the initial start of Jesus’ ministry show us the right formula for a Kingdom building ministry that Glorifies God?*
 - **Point 1:** *The Right Message being Taught. (V. 14-15)*
 - **Point 2:** *The Ready Members on your Team. (V. 16, 18-20)*

- **Point 3:** *The Real Messiah must be Trusted. (V. 17)*

- Based on last Sunday’s message, how have you been following the right formula for a kingdom building ministry?
 - Are you teaching the right message to others?
 - Do you have the ready members on your team assembled around you?
 - Are you trusting the Real Messiah every day?

‘The Actions of Authority!’

Mark 1:21-34

Sermon in a Sentence:

We can see the Actions of Authority that Jesus takes here by looking at how Jesus Taught Differently, Jesus Tames Demons, and how Jesus Treated Diseases that Mark shares with us.

Intro:

- This morning, for the first time in Mark’s Gospel, we see that the Gospel is one of ‘URGENCY’, it’s a Gospel of ‘NOW’, due to the Authority that Jesus Possess’s.
 - *While Luke 4:31-47 and Matthew 8:14-17 parallel this passage, this is the first time that Mark records acts that Jesus took that show His own authority.*

- *So far in Mark's Gospel, he's painted the picture of Jesus being our Savior, but now he is going to begin to show that Jesus is also Lord.*
- *See, in our society today, it is very hard for people to surrender and respect authority.*
 - Whether it's in the home, the workplace, or even the Church.
 - As human beings, we don't like to be told what to do. In today's society we have way too many chiefs and not enough Indians, so to speak.
- *This morning we are going to be challenged to submit and surrender to the authority of Jesus Christ.*
 - The actions of Authority that Jesus exemplifies here, shows us that we too, must allow Him to have full Authority in our lives.
 - *What we also find in our scripture text this morning, is that there is a sharp contrast between the response that people have to the authority of Jesus, and the response that the demons have.*
- *I believe JM described this passage of scripture well when he said 'They (the people) reacted with wonder, curiosity, and surprise because He taught as no one they had ever heard before. On the other hand, demons were terrified by Christ. They responded in horror, dread, and panic. Those divergent reactions lie at the heart of understanding the significance of this page.'*

Question to Ask:

How does Mark show us the different actions that Jesus took in this passage that show us He has authority?

Point 1: Jesus Taught Differently. (V. 21-22)

- 'And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.'
 - *When we left off last week, we saw that Jesus had called His disciples and had begun what many refer to as his Galilean ministry.*
 - Mark reveals to us that Jesus and the disciples, went to Capernaum.
 - *Capernaum would have been on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee.*
 - *In the days of Jesus, Capernaum was a very important city that served as a main port.*
 - There were Jews, Gentiles, and Romans along with officials.
 - As soon as Jesus arrives here, we see that He begins teaching.
 - *Mark not only reveals the location but also the timing of when this is happening. Mark clearly mentions the sabbath.*

- For the Jews, this was the day of worship that began on Sundown on Friday evening, and would go until Sundown on Saturday evening.
 - ***On this occasion, Jesus was teaching in the Jewish synagogue. What you and I would call our Church building that we are gathering in today.***
- ***There are modern day archaeologists who have performed excavations at Capernaum that have revealed residential structures, a synagogue, and an octagonal Christian sight.***
 - So, in Capernaum, **religion** was very important to these people. But Jesus was about to show them His authority and how important a **relationship** with Him really was.
- One scholar (Eckhard J. Schnabel) predicts that the population at this time would have been around 600.
 - ***In this small jewish town, word was about to travel fast that Jesus had arrived.***
 - By the authority that Jesus taught with and shows us in this passage, we know He can turn entire nations, states, cities, and even Churches upside down. He has that kind of authority.
- ***I believe there is one particular thing that Jesus shows us about how His teaching was much different than this jewish community had ever experienced.***
- ***Defying Tradition.***
 - In order to see how Jesus defied their Jewish traditions, we must see how their traditions were defined in this time period.
 - ****Word Study****
 - The english word **'astonished'** in verse 22 comes from the greek word **Ekplesso** ***which occurs 13 times and literally means to strike out of, astound, and amaze.***
 - ***The people in the synagogue were amazed at the teaching they were receiving in their regularly scheduled worship service.***
 - The message that Jesus was teaching that was different than that of the scribes, is the doctrine that Mark told us was being taught back in **Mark 1:14-15**.
 - 'Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, **15** and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand;[a] repent and believe in the gospel."

- *The doctrine that Jesus was teaching was one that required repentance and belief in Him.*
 - The only thing that these Jews had to compare the teaching of Jesus to, was the teaching they had received from the Scribes.
- Scholar James Edwards defines the scribes as **'There was a great demand for scribes throughout the ancient world, and especially in Judaism where the written code of the Torah regulated Jewish life.'**
 - Scribes focused on teaching tradition based on the Torah, while Jesus was focused on a message of transformation through Himself.
- *These scribes were experts on the law and they would study and explain it in specific situations.*
 - *The main difference between what Jesus was teaching here and what the scribes had been teaching for many years, is that Jesus taught by His own divine authority that had been given to Him by His Father.*
 - The scribes simply repeated the written and oral traditions of the Jewish religion.
- *Jesus had far more authority than any teacher they had ever heard.*

- Jesus taught them differently.

Point 2: *Jesus Tames Demons. (V. 23-28)*

- Jesus walks into the regularly scheduled worship service at the Synagogue, and something compelling happens.
 - *As a result of Jesus preaching and teaching in the synagogue, brings Him face to face with the opponent of the Christian faith, evil.*
 - Even in today's culture it is unpopular, even among evangelical circles to believe that there are demons. I believe in our God, in angels, I know Satan exists and that his demons do as well.
 - *Before we discuss this morning, through the text, the 4 ways that Jesus tamed this demon at Capernaum, I want to tell you one thing I think is fundamentally true when discussing demons.*
 - I believe that demons and evil spirits can **oppress** believers, but I do not believe that they can **possess** them.
 - **I don't think that a demon can reside in the life of someone where the Holy Spirit lives.**
 - Now, we can be oppressed by demons and evil spirits, but they can't possess us if we've been blood bought by the Lamb.

- I believe there are **4** important things to consider about how Jesus tamed these demons.
- ***The Reality of Demons. (V. 23)***
 - ‘And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out,’ Mark 1:23
 - ***You and I need to realize that demons and the forces of evil are a real thing that believers in Christ will face.***
 - ***The spiritual realm is real, and Jesus is confronted with it right here in this Church service.***
 - ****Word Study****
 - Here, Mark uses the term that is translated to ‘unclean spirit’ which comes from the greek phrase ***‘Akathartos Pneuma’***.
 - ***This phrase is most often translated to ‘Demon’.***
 - The word ‘Demon’ occurs 63 times in the NT.
 - ***I personally believe that demons are fallen angels, who fell with satan when he tried to dethrone God.***
 - Revelation 12:4 tells us that 1/3 of the angles fell with satan and rebelled against God.
- ‘His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth.’
 - Here’s what Dr. Daniel Aiken said about demons ***‘They have authority and can promote disunity, propagate false doctrine, inflict disease, cause mental difficulties, and hinder Christian growth. Demons can oppress but not possess believers.’***
- ***I believe in Bible times, that demons were more active and prevalent in order to show Christ true power and authority over them.***
 - Demon possession is only mentioned twice in Acts, but it’s all over the Gospels.
 - Mark calls them ‘unclean spirits’ 11 times in his Gospel, and 13 times he refers to them as ‘demons’.
- ***Before we look at how the demon recognized Jesus, I think we need to realize that this demon shrieked and cried out, in a Church service.***
 - If this can occur in a first-century synagogue, then it can also happen in our own Churches.
- ***You and I need to be very aware of the reality of demons and spiritual warfare.***

- ***The Recognition by the Demons. (V. 24)***
 - “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.”
 - ***This particular demon borrows the vocal chords of this man he’s possessing, and speaks these words to Jesus.***
 - In speaking, this demon mentions the deity of Christ and His humanity.
 - ***Nazareth*** is reflected upon His humanity and ***‘the Holy One of God’*** is reflective of his deity.
 - ***This demon recognizes the authority of Jesus, and wants to know what Jesus wants to do to ‘them’ (‘us’ in the text).***
 - This is most likely referring to the demonic realm as a whole.
 - ***In the greek text, it is likely that the phrase ‘have you come to destroy us?’ is a statement rather than a question.***
 - ***This demon recognizes, better than humans do, that the Son of God coming to earth was a decisive moment in history that will one day lead to their doom, forever.***
 - ***Other scriptures in God’s Word remind us of the parameters that God has placed on demons.***
 - Today’s passage, Mark 1:21-34, show us that some demons roam freely now.
 - Revelation 9:13-19 show that some will be free to roam during the tribulation.
 - 2nd Peter 2:4 and Jude 6 show us that some demons are confined now and will never roam freely.
 - The activity of demons increased during the ministry of Jesus and will also do so in the end times according to Revelation 6-19.
 - ***When I read Mark 1:23-24, I can’t help but think of what James said in James 2:19.***
 - ‘Even the demons believe—and shudder!’
 - ***While this demon recognizes Jesus, the Lord is going to show Him His power and authority over all forces of evil by rebuking this demon.***
- ***The Rebuke by the Divine. (V. 25-26)***
 - ‘But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” 26 And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him.’
 - ***Jesus has the kind of Absolute authority that when He commands a demon to come out, the demon has to come out.***
 - Notice here that there was no dialogue, no discussions, no negotiations.

- In Jewish circles and communities it was occasional that they would attempt various formulas and rituals of exorcisms.
 - *But Jesus rebukes this demon and lets him know that He (Jesus) is the ultimate authority.*
 - *Jesus tells this particular demon that he needs to be quiet, and that this is a done deal.*
 - JM said *'Jesus success rate was perfect. He never failed to cast out the demons He confronted, nor did He rely on any special formulas or rituals to do so. He simply issued a command and the demons obeyed.'*
 - Mark shows us that at the beginning of Jesus' ministry the reality of demons (they exist), the recognition by the demons (they know who Jesus is) and that Jesus sharply rebuked them.
- *The Reputation of the Divine. (V. 27-28)*
 - 'And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." 28 And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.'
 - *In Mark 1:21-28, Jesus did something completely counter cultural that no one else could do.*

- Because of this, the people in this small community of Capernaum realized that this Man was not a normal scribe.
 - *His reputation began to spread all throughout the area, and so the intensity between the scribes, pharisees and religious leaders would also heat up.*
 - This will not be the last time in Mark's Gospel that we see Jesus deal with demons.
 - But all throughout, He will do so with authority.
 - *This morning we've seen Jesus Teach Differently, Tame Demons, but lastly, He (Jesus) treated diseases.*

Point 3: *Jesus Treated Diseases. (V. 29-34)*

- The way that verse 29 is written, shows us that Jesus left the synagogue and went to Peter's home that was in Capernaum.
 - *Scholar, James Edwards, says this concerning Peter's house 'The house is part of a large 'insula' complex, in which doors and windows open to an interior court rather than outwards to the street.'*
 - So, based on James Edwards perspective, Peter's house was an epicenter of this community.
 - *During this time period, most synagogue services would have ended at noon, so that is when we can estimate that this occurred.*

- I believe there are **2** important things to look at when looking at how Jesus treated diseases.
- ***A Welcomed Interruption. (V. 29-31)***
 - ‘And immediately he[a] left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. **30** Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. **31** And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.’
 - ***Whenever we come across a passage of scripture that deals with Jesus healing someone, we don't need to get wrapped up in the nature of the illness, but we need to focus in on the power of the healer.***
 - ***Now, I don't know what Jesus was thinking when He left the synagogue after preaching and casting the demon out.***
 - But for me personally, from experience, I know that I just want to go home and eat and then sleep. Preaching wears me out.
 - ***It's possible, although we don't know for certain that maybe Jesus wanted to go to Peter's home and lay down for awhile. Maybe even rest.***

- But as soon as he enters into the home, Mark tells us that ‘immediately’, they told Jesus about her.
- ***What you and I may view as an interruption into our daily lives and daily routines, may just be what God wants to do to get our attention in the life of another person and use us for His Glory.***
 - What we may see as a brief inconvenience, could be the intervention that someone else needs.
 - ***Someone could miss out on an encounter with almighty God because you're just too busy to let GOD interrupt you.***
- ***A Wonderful Intervention. (V. 32-34)***
 - ‘That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. **33** And the whole city was gathered together at the door. **34** And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.’
 - ***I find this interesting, because word spread quickly about Jesus casting demons out and about Jesus healing Peter's mother-in-law.***
 - ***When people are told about what Jesus has done in the life of others, they want to come and see for themselves.***

- Which is why it's so important that you and I tell them.
- *Jesus is able to heal, intervene, and do ministry all because He accepted this welcomed interruption.*

Conclusion:

- ***This morning we've seen that Jesus had authority over demons and casted them out.***
 - One reason we practice verse-by-verse and book-by-book preaching here, is because we come to topics to discuss that I know I wouldn't have personally chosen.
 - ***Discussing demons and evil forces is not on my top 10 list of discussion topics.***
 - But, God's Word deals with it.
 - ***It is my hope and prayer that this morning you've been able to see the actions that Jesus took that show He has absolute authority.***
 - ***And if Jesus Christ had this much authority in Bible times, how much authority do we actually allow Him to have in our life?***
 - What parts of your life do you need to hand over to Him today?
 - Jesus has shown in His actions that He has authority that was given to Him by His Father.

Have you allowed Him to have authority over you?

- **Point 1: *Jesus Taught Differently. (V. 21-22)***
- **Point 2: *Jesus Tames Demons. (V. 23-28)***
- **Point 3: *Jesus Treated Diseases. (V. 29-34)***
 - Jesus taught differently, tamed demons, and treated diseases. He did these things years ago, and He can do the same for you today!
- ***Before I close today's sermon, I want to remind you of the future fate of satan, his demons, and all forces of evil.***
 - 'and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.' Revelation 20:10
 - ***If the devil ever tries to remind you of your past, you make sure that you quote this scripture and remind him of his future.***