



REALITY

Authority, Demons, & Kingdom Living

Mark 1:21-34

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Mark 1:21-34

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. As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also

drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

Three questions for us to engage with through our text:

1. What does it mean to live with authority?
2. How do we make sense of demons and spirits?
3. What is the significance that Jesus cared about people's spiritual needs (demon possessed man) and their physical needs (healing)?

What does it mean to live with authority?

I'm convinced that, in the Church today, we need less spotlights, fog lights, and formulas; and simply more humility and dependence on the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Where does our authority come from?

Faithfulness & obedience in how we answer & embody 3 questions:

Who do you belong to? (Identity)

Who do you serve? (Lordship)

What are you about? (Mission)

How do we make sense of demons and spirits?

Ephesians 6:12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

“There is no uncreated being except God. God has no opposite...The proper question is whether I believe in devils. I do. That is to say, I believe in angels, and I believe that some of these, by the abuse of their free will, have become enemies to God...Satan, the leader or dictator of devils, is the opposite, not of God, but of Michael.”

- C.S. Lewis

What is the significance that Jesus cared about people’s spiritual needs (demon-possessed man) and their physical needs (healing)?

The kingdom of God isn’t merely about a ticket to heaven. It didn’t dawn on me until later during Holy Week that Jesus didn’t just enter Jerusalem and go straight to the cross. In between, He confronted corruption and hypocrisy, overturned tables, healed the blind and sick, hosted a meal for His imperfect friends, and washed dirty feet. The kingdom of God is about life on earth as well as eternity in heaven.

Luke 7:22

Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.