

34 So Jesus healed many people who were sick with various diseases, and he cast out many demons. But because the demons knew who he was, he did not allow them to speak. - Mark 1:34 NLT

As a result of the miraculous healings Jesus was besieged by crowds bringing their sick and demon-possessed to be healed. But not everyone who came to Jesus was healed. Even the most faithful believer, like Paul, suffered physically.

*There is no easy answer to the question, why are some healed and others not. What has been your experience in praying for Jesus' healing?*

*If we accept that Jesus has authority over sickness, but we or someone we love isn't healed, we may be torn between anger and trust. If you wrestle with this question, you are not alone. Only God has the answers and the peace we need in dealing with these issues. Take time to pray for those who are struggling with this question.*

Twice in our passage Jesus went away to a solitary place to pray (v.35, 45). That was not merely a time to petition God for favors. Jesus' strength was renewed spending time with His Father.

*In addition to requests and petitions, what are some of the other ways we commune with God, and how has time spent in His presence benefitted you?*

## WRAP-UP

*As we look at a day in the life of Jesus we see His ministry in the synagogue, in the home, when He was alone, and when He was surrounded by crowds. There is no place where Jesus isn't exercising authority or being renewed by time with God. Jesus' authority is Kingdom authority, and we can proclaim the good news that Jesus' Kingdom and His authority have come near.*

## MEMORY VERSE

*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 impure spirits and they obey him." - Mark 1:27 NIV*

## Challenge-

In this busy holiday season, don't taking neglect time alone with God in a solitary space to be renewed and refreshed as Jesus did.

## Jesus Has Authority The Gospel of Mark - Week 8

### INTRODUCTION

As Jesus went about each day, He displayed power and authority in every aspect of life. In the passage of scripture we are studying this week we see the rhythms of life under Kingdom Authority. Our coming and going, our getting up and laying down, our victories and our struggles are all under God's authority. This passage reveals Jesus' authority in how He taught, how He confronted demonic forces and how He healed sickness and disease. But He also modeled the necessity of spending time in God's presence to be renewed and revitalized each day.

### Ice Breaker

*Is there something outside of your control that you wish you had ultimate authority over? (Think outside the box- e.g. the weather, your favorite sports team, fashion trends, technology)*

### Key Passage

**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 impure spirits and they obey him."**

**- Mark 1:27 NIV**

### STUDY QUESTIONS

#### 1. Authority in Teaching

*21 They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. 22 The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. - Mark 1:21-22 NIV*

The rhythm of life in Jesus' day included the observance of the Sabbath. There were many practices that revolved around Sabbath, including gathering at the synagogue for prayer, Torah reading, teaching and

blessing. Jesus took the opportunity to teach in the Synagogue. But rather than referring to the authority of other rabbis, Jesus' taught the meaning of the scripture directly from the original text.

*There are many gifted Bible teachers available to us today. Who are some of the teachers you enjoy? What is it that you like about them? What are some of the important things to consider when you follow a particular bible teacher? If you had a question about what they taught, what would you do to check it out?*

More than once, Jesus taught by saying "You've heard it said...but I say..." And when He did, the scriptures people thought were so clear, suddenly took on new meaning.

*38 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' 39 But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also - Matthew 5:38-39 NIV*

*Jesus didn't have to rely on anyone else when He taught the scriptures, but we do. God can, and He does, reveal important truth to us directly, but most of us do not have the benefit of the extensive study, training and research which our ordained pastors have that aid them in interpreting scripture. Let's pray that God will help us discern wise teachers and identify false teaching.*

## **2. Authority Over the Demonic**

*23 Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, 24 "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!" - Mark 1:23-24 NIV*

Jesus' presence in the synagogue provoked a response from a demonic spirit. There is a spiritual realm every bit as real as the natural world we see around us. Our western culture is less attuned to it. But to deny it, makes us vulnerable to the schemes of the Enemy.

*The greatest triumph of the Enemy is to have a man not believe in the existence of devils, and thus give them power over him without knowing it." " The Screwtape Letters" by C.S. Lewis*

*What are the challenges we face, or arguments against believing in demonic forces? What has your experience been, either directly or through teaching, regarding the demonic?*

*25 "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" 26 The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. - Mark 1:25-26 NIV*

*1 When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, 2 and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. - Luke 9:1-2 NIV*

*13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, - Colossians 1:13 NIV*

*Not only did Jesus have authority over demonic activity, He shared that authority with His disciples. How is that authority related to proclaiming the Kingdom of God?*

## **3. Authority Over Sickness**

*30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a high fever. They told Jesus about her right away. 31 So he went to her bedside, took her by the hand, and helped her sit up. Then the fever left her, and she prepared a meal for them. ... 40 A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. "If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean," he said. 41 Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" 42 Instantly the leprosy disappeared, and the man was healed. - Mark 1:30-31, 40-42 NLT*

*In these two instances we see Jesus healing sickness. What do you see in both cases that are the same or similar in how Jesus reacts?*

Jesus went to the bedside of Simon's mother and took her hand. He also reached out to the leper and touched him. Jesus moved toward both and healed them with His touch. Even though He could have healed them with a word. In verse 41 the phrase "moved with compassion" refers to feelings that go deep. Gut-wrenching would be a good description of Jesus' response the leper begging to be healed. This gives us a glimpse of Jesus' response to the effect of sin in the world. In love and compassion, He moves towards us, and touches us, in order to cleanse us.