

W @ K L J P r a d @ r J O U r n a l

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

“The King Displays His Kingdom Authority”-Part 1

Mark 1:21-24

JULY 19 –25, 2009

Lord's Day	Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITTAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)
Sat							
Fri							
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THE LORD'S DAY –This week we turn to **Mark 1: 21-28**. In this portion of Sacred Scripture we read the story of Jesus and His power over the demon hosts as Mark chronicles for us the details of the meeting of Christ and a demon possessed man. Jesus’ *“Kingdom Authority”* if you will is demonstrated or displayed very clearly in this encounter. Read the story found in **Mark 1:21-28**.

Suggestion for prayer: Father, teach me from Your Word this week.

MONDAY –We have seen previously in *“The Temptation of Jesus”* recorded in **verses 12-13** how The Lord Jesus defeated Satan himself in the wilderness, and we learn from that encounter that Christ has power over the very ruler of the domain of evil. Then in **verses 14-15** we read of Jesus preaching and announcing that *“The Kingdom of God is at hand”* and entrance into it is only for those who *“Repent and believe in the gospel”*. Now in our text for this week we have this incident where Jesus shows His power over demons. Christ throughout His earthly ministry that culminated in His death, resurrection, and ascension will leave no doubt about His power to break the bondage of Satan that enslaves sinners in fear and captivity and eventually leads them to eternal hell (**Hebrews 2:14-15**). Jesus has bound the *“strong man”* and is plundering his house (**Mark 3:27**). This point of power and authority over Satan and demonic forces is essential to demonstrating that Christ’s Kingdom is a reality. If He cannot break the power of the enemy and cannot bind Satan and plunder the house of *“the ruler of this age”* there is no hope for anyone to be saved. But praise God beloved, He does have *“Kingdom Authority”* that is beyond ANY human authority and power as it extends universally, and is even beyond the power of the “supernatural”, cosmic world. Jesus, in His work on the cross, has made a *“public spectacle”* of the enemy (**Colossians 2:13-15**). Then, in His resurrection and ascension He has *“led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men”* as He returned to The Father victorious and then distributes the spoils if you will throughout His kingdom in the form of spiritual gifts (**Ephesians 4:8-13**). So we will read in this text from Mark the demonstration of Jesus’ power and authority which affirms His ability to rescue enslaved sinners and bring life to the dead

Suggestion for prayer: Thank You Jesus for Your Kingdom conquering power.

TUESDAY –As we come to the particulars of our text, we read in **verse 21** that Jesus and His new “fishers of men” (they) *“...went into Capernaum”*, home of these first disciples. This important fishing village on the shore of the Sea of Galilee became a sort of “headquarters” for Jesus during His ministry. We read

M a t t h e w 6: 9-13

Further, “...*immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught*”. We learn from all the gospel writers that this was Jesus’ custom; namely, to go to the synagogue on the Sabbath. The synagogue was a place for prayer, the reading of God’s Word, and the exposition of it. The synagogue was in large part the place of teaching and instruction while The Temple remained the place for sacrifice. It was here in the setting of the local synagogue where the people met weekly to hear the law read, and to be instructed, that Christ came and preached the “good tidings” (gospel) to them, and taught them things concerning the kingdom of God. We read in Scripture in various places (**Mark 5:38, Luke 8:41, 13:14**) of “*the ruler of the synagogue*”. (As an interesting side note; Jesus once healed the daughter of Jarius who was a “*ruler of the synagogue*” and it was here in Jarius’ synagogue that our story in **Mark 1** takes place.) These men presided over the service and acted as instructors in disputes and it was his privilege to call a competent speaker to come before the people and teach. The spreading of the word that He was “a man with a message” provided Him the pulpits of many synagogues. Sadly & tragically for some this “interest” turned into hostility, climaxing in hatred for Jesus & His message.

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, thank You for the privilege of gathering weekly to pray to You, hear You speak to us from Scripture, and be taught and instructed.*

WEDNESDAY –Verse 22 gives to us the reaction of the hearers of Jesus’ teaching in the synagogue. The text says they were, “...*astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes*”. This teaching was not what they were used to hearing. This message announcing the coming of the Kingdom and defeat of Satan was not a ho-hum mundane type of exposition of the law as interpreted by some tradition of Elders or Rabbis. Jesus’ message carried in it awareness that people were hearing something important, majestic, powerful. The manner of Jesus’ teaching was different in that He taught them as one having “ἐξουσίαν”. This Greek word translated “*authority*” means among other things “power of choice, liberty of doing as one pleases, physical and mental power, the ability or strength with which one is endued, which he either possesses or exercises, the power of authority (influence) and of right (privilege).” I think we can get the point of this word; Jesus had a power other men didn’t have, it was a “personal authority” if you will. Other scribes would often quote other sources and teachers while Jesus gave decisions on His own authority and spoke with the finality of the voice of God. Jesus, “The Living Word” needed no authority beyond Himself. He alone could give an independent judgment. Jesus’ teaching was unique from the scribes because it was tied to His person. Beloved, although we do not hear Jesus audibly speak to us, we do hear His voice through the “Written Word”, Sacred Scripture. As we saw last week, the power of our message is the message itself. Jesus did have a power in Himself as He was God, and even Christ gave us an example of what to preach as He preached the message of “*Repent and believe in the gospel*”. We as human instruments have no authority of and in ourselves; rather our authority begins and ends in Holy Writ as it proclaims the person and work of Jesus. Our mandate is summarized in the instruction of the apostle in **2 Corinthians 4:5-6**.

Suggestion for prayer: *Please pray for me as your pastor to always and only preach*

Jesus Christ and His majestic, glorious, unmatched person and work.

THURSDAY –If Jesus’ teaching “*astonished*” (“to be struck with amazement, astonished, amazed”) the people in the synagogue; It would be hard to put in words what His actions are about to do. As Mark moves along he tells us in **verses 23-24** that there was a man in their synagogue with “*an unclean spirit*”. Apparently this man had lucid moments or he would not have been allowed in the synagogue. But this day, he was there. As Gill comments “and such spirits sometimes are where religious persons meet, but with no good design; either to disturb the preacher, or to divert the hearer, that the word may be unfruitful and unprofitable”. We now find the confrontation as the demon, as if in a panic “*cried out*” (ἀνέκραξεν -to raise a cry from the depth of the throat) at Jesus. The sinless, holy majesty of Christ was a presence the demon could not bear to be around. The demon says to Jesus, “*Let us alone! What have we to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth?*” A single demon speaks yet we find he speaks on behalf of all the evil forces which stand in opposition to Christ. He seems to assume that the others will share the same fate as he. They may have had nothing to do with Christ, as they had no interest in Him as Savior or Redeemer, but Jesus did have something to do with them. He would now show His power to deliver men out of their hands. Read **James 2:19, 1 John 3:8** and **1 John 5:19**.

Suggestion for prayer: *Thank Jesus for coming to destroy the works of the devil.*

FRIDAY & SATURDAY –The phrase, “*What have we to do with you*” denotes an entire separation of interests. Let me paraphrase it as, “You and we have nothing in common; we don’t want You; what would You with us?” They feared Christ was there to “*destroy*” (ἀπολέσαι –destroy, to put out of the way entirely, abolish, put an end to ruin, metaphorically: to devote or give over to eternal misery in hell) them. Notice also that the demon recognizes Jesus by saying, “*I know who You are—the Holy One of God!*” Many people, including the disciples failed to recognize Christ at times, but not the demons. St. Augustine: “Call to mind with me the time when Peter was praised and called blessed. Was it because he merely said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”? No, he who pronounced him blessed, regarded not merely the sound of his words, but the affections of his heart. Compare that with the words of the demons who said almost the same thing: “We know who you are, the Son of God,” just as Peter had confessed him as “Son of God.” So what is the difference? Peter spoke in love, but the demons in fear. . . . So tell us how faith is to be defined, if even the devils can believe and tremble? Only the faith that works by love is faith. Those words show clearly that the demons had much knowledge, but entirely lacked love. They dreaded receiving their punishment from him. They did not love the righteousness that was in him. He made himself known to them to the extent he willed...But he was not made known to them as he is known to the holy angels, who enjoy participation in his eternity, in that he is the Word of God.” Read **Luke 1:35, Revelation 4:8**.

Suggestion for prayer: *Holy, Holy, Holy, is The Lord God Almighty!*

SATURDAY –

Suggestion for prayer: God, use me to preach the gospel to this lost world.