

W @ e k l j P r a j @ r j o u r n a l

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

“The King Displays His Kingdom Authority”-Part 2

Mark 1:21-28

AUGUST 2 –8, 2009

THE LORD'S DAY –This week as we return to **Mark 1: 21-28** we continue our study in this portion of Sacred Scripture by finishing the story of Jesus and His power over the demon hosts found detailed in the meeting of Christ and a demon possessed man. As we saw in “Part 1”, 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 –By way of review let’s think back to our first lesson from this text: 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 absolutely 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 god of this age*” (**2 Corinthians 4:4, 1 John 5:19**) 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, made a “*public spectacle*” of the enemy (**Colossians 2:13-15**). Then, in His resurrection and ascension He “*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 continue to see 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: *Praise Jesus today for His Kingdom conquering power.*

TUESDAY –We left off last time in **verse 24** where we found that the demon says to Jesus, “*Let us alone! What have we to do with you, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!*” We mentioned that a single demon speaks for the hosts of fallen angels as he uses the plural “us” and “we”. Also the great separation of interests is made apparent by the demon asking Jesus what they have to do with each other. Although they do not want Christ to exercise His authority and “*destroy*” (ἀπολέσαι –destroy,

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)
Lord's Day						
Mon						
Tue						
Wed						
Thu						
Fri						
Sat						

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

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 at this time we can almost hear in this terror stricken demon the panic of knowing his ultimate fate at the hands of The Lord and Creator of the Universe (**Matthew 25:41**). The demon ends by giving a great confession to the “holiness” of Jesus, although it is given not out of love for Jesus but by the sheer force of the facts. In reality, the sinless, holy majesty of Christ was a presence the demon could not bear to be around. Do we love the righteousness of Jesus and long to be like Him? “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” (St. Augustine). Read **Romans 8:29, 1 John 3:1-3**.

Suggestion for prayer: Father, grant me greater love for Jesus. You will conform me to His image so help me live a life of purity because of this great hope within me.

WEDNESDAY –After these “admissions” by this demon we see in **verse 25** that “*The Holy One of God*” is about to deal with him. The authority of Christ will be made evident, the very same authority that will one day command this demon to go to the lake of fire. Jesus, unlike the movies portrayal of “exorcisms”, just *rebukes* the demon and drops an authoritative command in the words, “*Be quiet, and come out of him.*” There is no ritual chanted nor is there any hocus-pocus or long dialogue with this fiend; rather Christ merely speaks with “Kingdom Authority”. I believe Paul in his epistle to the Corinthians, says something that can help illustrate what we see taking place here in our story. **1 Corinthians 4:20** says, “*For the Kingdom of God is not in word (does not consist in talk) but in power*”. In the passage Paul is saying anyone can run their mouth about their own spirituality, talk a big game for God, or expound how much they know etc..., but it is the power of the life not the impressive nature of words that reveals true spiritual character or the presence of “*The Kingdom of God*”. Jesus here displays a *Kingdom* power possessed by the sinless, righteous, very Son of God. Jesus spoke words yes, but what made them efficacious (powerful) is that God Himself was speaking. The character of Divine sinless perfection carries the power to command absolutely whatever He desires and it will take place. We see this principle demonstrated in our lives as believers as well. As we live continually or habitually “*walking in the Spirit*” it is then that we see the indwelling Spirit manifest Himself in our lives giving power over sin. We have the Spirit within if we are truly saved (**Romans 8:9**) so we have the personal power within to please God. We have power over the “*lusts of the flesh*” as we “*walk in the Spirit*” (**Galatians 5:16**). Have we really learned this? Only if we are living it. As our brother Terry Anger said this past week at Odosagih, “Truth Learned is Truth Lived”.

Suggestion for prayer: Help me God to walk in the power of The Spirit. Thank You Jesus that You are the ALL-Powerful God. May I trust You more.

THURSDAY –Understand that in this dialogue Jesus is conversing with the demon not the man. This man does not have a “disease” or merely “depression”; rather he has a demon, a fiend of hell living within him and this is WHO not what Christ addresses. The text says Jesus “*rebuked*” the demon. This Greek word means among other things, “to tax with fault, rate, chide, rebuke, reprove, censure severely,

to admonish or charge sharply”. It is a strong word. It is used by Jesus in **Mark 4:39** as He “*rebuked the wind*”, we also find it in **Luke 23:40** as the thief on the cross “*rebuked*” the other thief as he mocked Jesus, and then in **2 Timothy 4:2** where Timothy is told that part of his duty along with “*preaching the word*” is to “*rebuke...*” Now as Jesus continues, He tells this demon that He wants no testimony from him concerning His person or mission. He literally, as the Greek says, tells him to “put a muzzle on it”. After commanding his silence, Christ says, “*...come out of him*”. We are about to witness the Kingdom Authority of Christ as with a mere word of command He expels the demon from this man. Beloved, understand that it is against this demons will that Jesus exercises this authority. This evil spirit delighted in tormenting this man and would rather not be removed which is contrary to his desire. Nevertheless, God’s perfect will is done as it lays supreme over every other desire including Satan’s and the demonic realm. Read **Matthew 28:18**.

Suggestion for prayer: Meditate on the power and authority of Jesus.

FRIDAY –The demon manifests disgust and disrespect yet also a necessary although reluctant obedience to the command of the Lord in **verse 26**. The text says that “*when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him*”. The demon had met the superior power of Christ and was obliged to obey the Master. We can picture the scene and it is not one for the faint of heart. The Greek word for “*convulsed*” means literally “tear” and the Greek word *sparasso* finds its origin from *spairo* (“to grasp”, apparently strengthened from *spao* through the idea of “spasmodic contraction”). Greek scholars tell us the word is used by the medical profession to refer to “the rotating of the stomach”. Even though I can’t say exactly what is involved in that, it helps us to see the point that it was not a pleasant scene as the demon leaves this man. Although the situation appears to be violent **Luke 4:35** tells us of this same incident that the demon “*did not hurt him*”. Christ’s authority extends even to the demons’ manner and place of departure (**Mark 5:8-13**).

Suggestion for prayer: Thank Jesus for His care of you in the smallest of details.

SATURDAY –In **verse 27-28** we are brought back to the reaction of the people concerning Christ and His authority. They had been “*astonished*” at His words of authority and now they were “*amazed*” at His works of authority. The Greek word translated “*amazed*” carries with it the idea of being terrified or frightened. Why did they express this reaction? The ability and power to cast out devils was “*new*” to them, “*...for with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him*”. Christ’s power in word and work was obvious; He commanded and the spirits immediately came out. Unique to Jesus was that He did these things in his own name, by His own authority, and it was all done by a word. This proved His superiority to all the unclean spirits. Those in the synagogue that day were not alone in the impression that this was God’s Messiah, but “*His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee*”. Read **Matthew 9:33**.

Suggestion for prayer: “My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of Thy name”.