

A New Authority

Mark 1:21-34

Pastor Lisa Peters

AUTHORITY

The _____ to enact something and the
_____ to serve a larger purpose.

Mark 1:21-22 NLT

Jesus and his companions went to the town of Capernaum. When the Sabbath day came, he went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, for he taught with real authority—quite unlike the teachers of religious law.

“Mark uses the term *authority* for the first time; the word literally means ‘out of the original stuff.’ It comes from the same root word as *author*. Mark means that Jesus taught about life with original rather than derived authority. He didn’t just clarify something that they already knew, or simply interpret the Scriptures in the way the teachers of the law did. His listeners sensed somehow that he was explaining the story of their lives *as the author*, and it left them dumbfounded.”
~ Tim Keller

The Supernatural authority of Jesus accomplishes two things:

1. The power to _____ lost ground

Mark 1:23-26 NLT

Suddenly, a man in the synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit began shouting, “Why are you interfering with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

Jesus cut him short. “Be quiet! Come out of the man,” he ordered. At that, the evil spirit screamed, threw the man into a convulsion, and then came out of him.

THE KINGDOM IN ACTION

November
18
2012

Mark 1:27-28 NLT

Amazement gripped the audience, and they began to discuss what had happened. “What sort of new teaching is this?” they asked excitedly. “It has such authority! Even evil spirits obey his orders!” The news about Jesus spread quickly throughout the entire region of Galilee.

2. The power to _____ brokenness

Mark 1:29-34 NLT

After Jesus left the synagogue with James and John, they went to Simon and Andrew’s home. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was sick in bed with a high fever. They told Jesus about her right away. 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.

That evening after sunset, many sick and demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. The whole town gathered at the door to watch. 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.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A New Authority

Mark 1:21-34

- 1) What from this passage and Sunday's teaching stood out to you?
- 2) In this passage we see that Jesus has all undisputed authority; when He speaks, the enemy listens. He touches and people are healed. This supernatural authority is conferred to us as His apprentices.
 - a) Do you believe this to be true for us today? Why or why not?
 - b) How might this authority be exercised in our everyday life?
- 3) In Mark 1:25, Mark writes that Jesus "cut the enemy short." In Sunday's sermon, Pastor Lisa spoke about the battle that we find ourselves in everyday where the enemy desires to rob us of the abundant life that God has for us. She encouraged us that we can claim the authority of Jesus in those situations.
 - a) In what areas does the enemy seek to "steal, kill and destroy" in your life?
 - b) In what ways could you be "cutting him short" just as Jesus did?
 - c) Taking our thoughts captive can be hard work at times, especially in seasons where we feel weak, hurt or overwhelmed. What can we do to protect and fortify ourselves as we seek to walk in victory even in difficult times? What do you think this might tangibly look like in your everyday life?
- 4) In the second half of our passage, we see Jesus restore brokenness. Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law and the many people who were brought to Him after sunset.
 - a) How have you experienced healing in your life to this point? For some of you it might be physical healing, but for others it will be emotional or mental healing. Take some time to share with the group how you have seen God at work in restoring an aspect of your life.
- 5) On Sunday Pastor Lisa reaffirmed that "Spiritual Formation is always happening." As we journey through times of disappointment and confusion, God desires to form and shape us – to draw us close to Himself. We can submit to His authority and allow our hearts to grow, or we can listen to the enemy's lies as He seeks to drive a wedge between us and our loving Lord.
 - a) Have you ever experienced disappointment when praying for (physical) healing either for yourself or someone you care about? How has this affected your relationship with God? Has it drawn you closer or become a wedge between you?
 - b) If spiritual formation is always happening, how may Jesus want to grow you through this experience?
- 6) Take some time to pray for one another, in particular with regard to anything that may have surfaced in your discussion. Be sure to pray that you might walk in the authority you each have as apprentices of Jesus. A great scripture to pray for one another might be Ephesians 3:16-18.