

Mark 1:21-28 — “Jesus’ Authority Over Demons!”

The main idea here is “**authority.**” In Mark, healings/exorcism happen according to pressing need, not as a part of Jesus’ planned agenda/purpose. It is deliberate that Mark presents *this* as the first miracle in his gospel (Ben Witherington).

Jesus has all authority (Matthew 28:18):

- The Greek word: AUTHORITY: think of the word “power” — the power of One whose *will* and *command* *must* be submitted to & obeyed.
- The point/theme of our text is the **authority of Jesus!** See Mark 1:22, 27 form a *frame/bookend* to this account (with the word “authority”).

This account brings us to what’s often called “The Long Day” (The “Busy Sabbath Day”):

The day in Capernaum:

1. calling of disciples (Mark 1.16-20)
2. Enters Capernaum on the Sabbath (1.21a)
3. teaching (1:21-22)
4. an exorcism (1.23-28)
5. healing of Peter’s mother in law (1:29-31)
6. more healings/exorcisms (1:32-34)
7. Then he leaves Capernaum on the next day (1:35-39)

THESIS — Theme: Authority of Jesus Christ

v.22 - he taught as one with **authority** [ἐξουσίαν]

v.27 - a new teaching with **authority** [ἐξουσίαν]

You see the Authority of Jesus Christ in 2 ways...

- 1) Christ’s Authority when he TAUGHT THE TRUTH (21-22)
- 2) Christ’s Authority when he EXPELLED THE DEMON (23-28)

I. CHRIST’S AUTHORITY WHEN HE TAUGHT THE TRUTH (21-22)

Capernaum:

The synagogue:

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SCRIBES = scholars of the day — professionally trained in the interpretation of the Law (and oral, rabbinic tradition). Jesus often comes into conflict with them.

The teaching of The Truth:**II. CHRIST'S AUTHORITY WHEN HE EXPELLED THE DEMON (23-28)****A. The Spirit** (v23-24)- the demonic spirit/unclean = Demon.

•v.24- Demonic confession of Jesus.

1. **Identity** of Jesus - Jesus of Nazareth
2. **Affirmation** of Jesus - The Holy One of God
3. **Judgment** of Jesus - have you come to destroy us
4. **Fear** of Jesus - destroy us ... I know...
5. **Submission** to Jesus - the demon heard & obeyed

B. The Silencing (v25)- Christ's absolute control

How does Jesus heal/deliver?

1. He heals **VERBALLY**
2. He heals **SOVEREIGNLY**
3. He heals **TOTALLY**.
4. He heals **PUBLICLY**.
5. He heals **IMPARTIALLY**.
6. He healed **UNDENIABLY**.

C. The Sovereignty (25-26)

Jesus needed no spell, no incantation, no higher power/deity to exorcise/expel the demon.

D. The Shock (v.27)**E. The Spreading** (v.28)- news spread everywhere

- ❖ Jesus is NOT **afraid** — he's fearless
- ❖ Jesus is NOT **defiled** — he is not defiled when coming in contact w/ unclean world
- ❖ Jesus is NOT **ambiguous** — he is not ambiguous; people know
- ❖ Jesus is NOT **ordinary** [common] — he is not like all the rest; he's different

Never forget: there is hope for the **worst of the worst**. Even someone completely under the sway and power of the Devil can be forgiven & saved.

Though Satan should buffet,
 though trials should come,
 Let this blessed assurance control,
 That Christ has regarded
 my helpless estate,
 And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
 — Horatio Spafford [*It Is Well With my Soul*]

A MIGHTY FORTRESS

A mighty fortress is our God,
 a bulwark never failing;
 our helper he, amid the flood
 of mortal ills prevailing.
 For still our ancient foe
 does seek to work us woe;
 his craft and power are great,
 and armed with cruel hate,
 on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
 our striving would be losing,
 were not the right Man on our side,
 the Man of God's own choosing.
 You ask who that may be?
 Christ Jesus, it is he;
 Lord Sabaoth his name,
 from age to age the same;
 and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,
 should threaten to undo us,
 we will not fear, for God has willed
 his truth to triumph through us.
 The prince of darkness grim,
 we tremble not for him;
 his rage we can endure,
 for lo! his doom is sure;
 one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly powers
 no thanks to them abideth;
 the Spirit and the gifts are ours
 through him who with us sideth.
 Let goods and kindred go,
 this mortal life also;
 the body they may kill:
 God's truth abideth still;
 his kingdom is forever!

O CHURCH ARISE

O church, arise, and put your armor on;
Hear the call of Christ our captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth,
We'll stand against the devil's lies.
An army bold, whose battle cry is love,
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war, to love the captive soul,
But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole,
We will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on every side,
We know the outcome is secure.
And Christ will have the prize for which He died:
An inheritance of nations.

Come, see the cross, where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away,
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This victory march continues till the day
Ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride;
Give grace for every hurdle.
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old, still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls, and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in Glory.

Behold Jesus Christ:

- ✓ Jesus' COMPASSION - upon the demonized man
- ✓ Jesus' POWER - over all demons
- ✓ Jesus' AUTHORITY - to totally deliver from the Demonic realm
- ✓ Jesus' PRIORITY - teaching the Word
- ✓ Jesus' COURAGE/Manliness - unflinching in face of deep, dark evil

