Jesus Demonstrates His Authority

Mark 1:21-28

BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR LEADERS

Jesus Preaches With Authority

Mark begins this passage with a demonstration of Jesus' authority. Jesus was different from those who usually spoke in the synagogue. When Jesus interpreted the passage he read, he did so with authority—so much authority that the people noticed how different he was from the normal teachers of the Law.

Demons Take Notice of Jesus' Authority

Jesus apparently was making such an impression that the demon possessing a man felt the need to create a distraction. The demon referred to himself in the plural. Apparently more than one demon—perhaps many of them—were controlling this man.

Demons and demon possession are not often discussed in the church today. In Jesus' day, it seems that demon possession was commonly known. Perhaps it was more apparent because the demons opposed Jesus' ministry.

Jesus Demonstrates Power Over Demons

The demons in this story clearly knew who Jesus was. "The Holy One of God" is a name for the promised Messiah. So why would a demon make himself known to Jesus? The demons may have been attempting to deceive people listening to Jesus that he was in league with them. However, Jesus cut short the demons' dialogue. Notice that there was no protest when Jesus spoke to the demons. They knew they had to obey and did so immediately.

People Spread the Word About Jesus

The people present were amazed at Jesus' authority just from hearing him teach. But when demons obeyed his commands, those watching saw that Jesus had the power to back up his authority. He was the all-powerful Son of God. And when people left the synagogue that day, they began telling everyone in the whole region who Jesus was. After this event, Jesus could no longer go anywhere in the region of Galilee without being recognized and surrounded by people wanting to be healed by his miraculous power.

The Jesus Connection

Jesus' power goes far beyond what we can comprehend. Yet we can begin to understand the worth of Jesus' love for us.

We may not understand the demon possession that's described in this passage, but we can stand amazed at Jesus' power. Do you comprehend the magnitude of Jesus' power? What do you believe Jesus' power can do in your life? Go to Jesus with your needs, your hopes, your fears, and let his power comfort and guide you. You can write your prayer here.