

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE –

Studies in the Gospel of Mark

“The Authority of Jesus” – Mark 1:21-34

MAIN IDEA

The debate of authority is being verbally and even physically fought over in our generation. Competing philosophies have moved from the halls of academia to the streets of protest. People seem to be abandoning the rules and institutions that promise equality feeling those places of power have actually stolen those liberties. It's fascinating that as our culture moves away from God, it loses a rationale for its own ethic. Instead our society creeps towards chaos and anarchy. Jesus stepped into a type of culture that had legislated and ritualized away its members liberty. Throughout the Gospel of Mark, six different words are recorded to describe how “amazed” the people were at the authority with which Jesus acted and spoke. This opening chapter records multiple ways Jesus established His authority. Philosophically, he taught without the endorsement of any other scholar. Spiritually, He displayed His authority over the supernatural with His command of angels or demons. Physically, He exercised dominion as he healed and restored those who were sick and broken. The integrity of Jesus' authority is still validated today by those who have experienced His sovereignty in the worlds of ideas, spiritual power and physical vitality.

SCRIPTURAL INSIGHT

The confrontation between the demon and Jesus is worth paying special attention to. Why does Mark record the fallen angel as an “unclean spirit?” Remember the context pertains to authority. The synagogue was the religious, political and social center of their community. Ritual purity had also grown beyond the rules laid out in the Torah. The piety of the leaders of Judaism had for hundreds of years been expanding and exaggerating their religious routines. Therefore, the irony is in the word *unclean*. The underworld had planted themselves in the center of Jewish life and there was nothing anyone had been able to do about it. The demon mocks Jesus' presence with the rebellious, street words of “What is it to you?” An idiom that is hard to translate fully but shows that he was not happy with his turf being challenged. See how some of the other translations have tried to convey it, but I tend to lean towards mine. :)

And he cried out,

“Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth?” NKJV

“What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth?” NASB

“What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth?” NIV

“Why are you interfering with us, Jesus of Nazareth?” NLT

READ & DISCUSS

Read out loud together Mark 1:21-34, trying to identify areas that we might better bring under the authority of Jesus.

Mark 1:32-33 At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. And the whole city was gathered together at the door.

• *What do we learn about God in this passage based on the actions of Jesus? How can these observations affect our confidence in our places of routine, like work, home or faith? What kinds of fears have you had that need to be brought under Jesus' authority? What areas of the church has the evil one set up residence in and sometimes mocks us? How can we reintroduce Jesus to those areas?*

- The marketplace of ideas is full of conflicting opinions, and some areas might seem more trivial than others. Jesus and the Bible speak with authority into every area, but often people never search there for their answers. *What does the Bible say about the biggest questions of life? How did I get here? What is the meaning and purpose of life? How can I be happy? What does it take to be successful? What is in store for the future? What happens after I die?*

PRAYER & TESTIMONY

Transparency amongst believers is not only authentic, it fosters our healing and positions us for success in the Christian life. Pray that we be can more like a body and support one another. The trail is not intended to be journeyed alone.

SPIRITUAL APPLICATION & DISCIPLINE

Telling the truth includes not exaggerating, minimizing or manipulating that facts. Jesus said anything else except the simple truth comes from the evil one (Matt 5:37). This kind of authenticity is important because it takes away the enemy's ability to exert influence over our lives. Let's validate what Jesus has done in our hearts and minds by also protecting how we convey truth.

RESOURCE

There are a lot of confusing or competing views on what Satan and demons can do to saints. Scripture is our source of knowledge that will help us feel the security of Jesus' authority over us. This title catalogues the subject, and is a thorough read. Another by the same title, but now out of print, is the classic by Donald Grey Barnhouse.

The Invisible War: What Every Believer Needs to Know about Satan, Demons, and Spiritual Warfare. Chip Ingram. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2015.



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Based on Pastor Brian Brodersen's message from September 09, 2018.

Watch Again: <https://cccm.com/teaching/jesus-christ-son-of-god-savior/video/the-authority-of-jesus/>