

Date: March 1, 2026

Series: Mark: The Sovereign, Suffering Servant

Title: Authority that Amazes and Angers

Text: Mark 1:21-28



INTRODUCTION

*“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand;
repent and believe in the gospel.”*

(Mark 1:15)

“Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”

(Mark 1:17)

I. THE CONQUEROR IN CAPERNAUM

(Mark 1:21 and Luke 7:4b-5)

1) The Greek word translated as “synagogue” simply means “gathering” or “assembly”. It was a central gathering place within the Jewish community, serving as a place of local worship, a meeting hall, a school, and even a courtroom.

(Mark 1:22)

2) In Mark’s Gospel, we often learn who Jesus is by **WHAT** He does and HOW He does it!

3) The people were astonished **BECAUSE OF** Jesus’ authority. The Greek word translated as “authority” is “exousia” and it is made up of a prefix (“ex” meaning “out of”) and a root (“ousia” meaning “being” or “substance”). Jesus spoke “out of His being”; Jesus spoke from His own divine, holy, transcendent authority.

(Hebrews 1:3)

Note: The scribes were the “expert interpreters” of the Old Testament, teaching and instructing the people with borrowed, “secondhand” authority.

(Mark 1:23-26)

4) What we witness here is Jesus in complete control. Jesus continues to act, speak, confront, and rebuke with overwhelming authority. This is NOT a battle; this is The King “cleaning house”. This is NOT a fierce competition; this is a public demonstration of Jesus’ divine authority and power!

Note: It was divine authority that first threw this demon out of heaven, and one day this same divine authority will throw him into hell.

(Mark 10:45)

Note: Don’t fear the demons! Fear THE ONE the demons fear!

“Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” (1 John 4:4)

Note: Jesus does not believe that all publicity is good publicity. Jesus does not want or need the testimony of a foul demon filled with anger, fear, and hatred.

(Luke 4:35 and Mark 1:27-28)

5) Amazement is ultimately meaningless if it does not lead to faith, love, and worship!

(James 2:19)

*“Let us take heed that our faith be a faith of the heart as well as of the head.
Let us see that our knowledge has a sanctifying influence on our affections and our lives.
Let us not only know Christ but love Him from a sense of actual benefit received from Him.
Let us not only believe that He is the Son of God and the Savior of the world,
but rejoice in Him and cling to Him with purpose of heart. Let us not only be acquainted with Him by the hearing of the ear but by daily personal application to Him for mercy and grace.”
(J. C. Ryle, Mark, Volume 1, pages 24-25)*

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. What is a synagogue and why was Jesus there?
2. What does Mark tell us and not tell us about Jesus’ teaching?
3. What does the word “authority” mean? How was Jesus’ authority unique/different from the scribes?
4. What does this unclean spirit say that is factually true/accurate? Why did Jesus silence him?
5. How did the people respond to Jesus’ authoritative words and actions? How should we respond?