

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MAY 24TH–25TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

AUTHORITY (MARK 1:21–28) SABBATH

The Sabbath was set aside as a day of worship and rest. The synagogue was where people gathered to hear scribes teach OT Scriptures. Jesus entered the synagogue on the Sabbath and began to teach.

- Sabbath is a command from God. We need to **fill up so we can go and pour out.**

AUTHORITY

They were astonished at Jesus' teaching because He taught with authority. The scribes were trained scholars, but they always quoted other experts. Jesus did not quote the authorities; **He spoke as The Authority.**

- We need to listen to Jesus and His Word as the authority of our lives.

AN UNCLEAN SPIRIT RECOGNIZES JESUS

Jesus was interrupted by a demon-possessed man. Clearly, the demons recognized and acknowledged the person and work of Jesus.

- It is **not enough just to know Jesus**—even demons know who He is (James 2:19). Saving faith entails more than mere knowledge. It includes trust and obedience.

DEMONIC POSSESSION

There is an enemy who is looking to devour (1 Peter 5:8). Demons oppress or enter people to steal, kill, and destroy (Mark 9:20–22).

- A demon can possess an unbeliever if the invitation is extended. If the Holy Spirit lives in us, there is no room for an unclean spirit. **Are we even a threat to the enemy?**

“BE SILENT, AND COME OUT OF HIM!” (V. 25)

“Us” may refer to multiple demons or to the demonic realm (v. 24). Either way, they know that Jesus is here and has all authority.

- Contrary to Jewish exorcists, Jesus simply said, “Be silent, and come out,” and the demon came out. His authoritative teaching was backed up by authoritative action.

PURPOSE (MARK 1:29–38)

JESUS HEALS PETER'S MOTHER-IN-LAW

Jesus and His disciples enter Peter's home where He heals Peter's mother-in-law of her fever, which was a big deal during this time.

- Peter's mother-in-law was completely restored and she immediately served Jesus out of gratitude. **What is our response when Jesus restores us?**

“THE WHOLE TOWN WAS... AT THE DOOR...”

The news traveled so fast that, by evening, many had come to be healed or have demons cast out. There was a huge wave of need, and Jesus had more than enough compassion and power to meet it.

- **Jesus is full of compassion, and we are never a burden to Him!**

JESUS PRAYS

It has been a long day for Jesus and his disciples. Instead of sleeping in, **Jesus got up very early** to spend time with His Father.

- If Jesus spent time with the Father in prayer, how much more should we spend time praying? **Do we only pray when it is convenient?**

DISCIPLES SEARCHED FOR JESUS

While Jesus was up early praying, His disciples searched for Him and said, “Everyone is looking for you.”

Jesus was aware that the crowd and disciples missed the main point.

- Their main need was not their physical needs, but their spiritual needs. Jesus came to preach. **Why do we follow Jesus?**

LEPER (MARK 1:39–45)

LEPROSY

A leper was a person whom the culture considered an outcast, the law judged unclean, and the people deemed cursed by God. They were considered a walking corpse.

- As horrible as the physical suffering was, the worst part of having leprosy might have been **the way people treated the leper.**

“IF YOU ARE WILLING, YOU CAN MAKE ME CLEAN”

The leper was at rock bottom and was desperate for change. He believed that Jesus could cleanse him and make him whole.

- Our prayers should be, “Lord, I know you can, but I want your will to be done.” **Even if He does not** answer it in the way we think He should, **He is still good** (Daniel 3:18).

JESUS' RESPONSE TO THE LEPER

Rather than turning away from the man, Jesus turns to him with compassion and touches him. This is the first human touch this man had felt in a long time.

- Jesus was countercultural in His response to this outcast. **Do we look at people as an interruption or an opportunity?**

LEPER'S RESPONSE TO JESUS

Jesus instructs the man not to say anything but to go to the priest. The man, probably out of excitement, disobeys Jesus' commands and spreads the news.

- Jesus did not want a huge crowd that only cared about miracles. **Do we only care about what Jesus can do for us?**

FULLY RESTORED

Jesus not only healed the man of leprosy, but He also wanted him back in community. This man was once an outcast and full of shame. He is now fully restored and made whole.

- **The power and presence of Jesus can fully restore us. Do we want to be changed?**

THE POWER OF JESUS

- Jesus has the power to heal, cast out demons, bring dead things to life, and to ultimately save.
- Our own power or the powers of this world cannot save. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is available to us (Romans 8:11). **Why not depend on Him?**

THE PRESENCE OF JESUS

- The disciples, Peter's mother-in-law, and the leper were all changed after their encounters with Jesus.
- **When we have a true encounter with Jesus, our lives should be transformed.** A true follower of Jesus is one who is **daily conformed to the image of God.**

DO WE WANT TO BE CHANGED?

- What controls us? Is it distraction? Your job? Unhealthy relationships? The love of money? People-pleasing? **Are we willing to leave these nets to follow Jesus?**
- Do we live life as a leper? Are we isolated and ashamed? **We cannot out sin the cross. We are not a burden. Jesus is compassionate.**

HAVE YOU BEEN CHANGED?

- Have you experienced the touch of Jesus in your life? Has he set you free? Our response should be a life given back to love Him and love others.
- **Do people feel the presence of Jesus when they are around you? Would the life you live offer hope to the outcast?**
- **John 10:10 (CSB)**