

THIS WEEK’S MESSAGE

MAY 25TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

AUTHORITY (MARK 1:21–28) CAPERNAUM

With His new disciples, Jesus entered a small city called Capernaum, an important port located on the Sea of Galilee.

- This became Jesus’ home base as He went throughout the region evangelizing.

TEACHING WITH AUTHORITY

When Jesus arrived, He began teaching in the synagogue, which was a place for worship on the Sabbath. One could be started if there were 10 adult males.

- Jesus taught differently than the scribes. While the scribes would quote well-known rabbis, through traditions of men, **Jesus did not rely on any outside sources; He taught with His authority.**

AN UNCLEAN SPIRIT IN THE SYNAGOGUE

As soon as Jesus begins His ministry, Satan opposes Him through a demonic spirit, showing that the demon was not afraid to enter the synagogue.

- **Satan seeks to invade wherever he can, striving to disrupt the work of God. We need to be vigilant and refuse to let him distract us.**

HOLY ONE OF GOD

The unclean spirit refers to Jesus as “the Holy One of God,” while in other instances in Mark, He is called “the Son of God,” and “Son of the Most High God.”

- In contrast we see many of the sick call Jesus, “Lord,” “Teacher,” “Son of David,” and “Master.”

REMARKABLE THEOLOGY

Theology is the study of the nature of God and religious belief.

- Many of the sick who approached Jesus experienced His healing touch. **It is remarkable that the demons still had a clearer understanding of His true identity than many of them. How do you perceive Jesus?**

COMMANDING WITH AUTHORITY

This confrontation is brief as Jesus speaks a few direct words.

- Not only did Jesus speak with authority but **His words also commanded an immediate response, with both the unclean spirit and the people. What is our immediate response when God speaks to us?**

DISEASE (MARK 1:29–34) A FEVER

Once again, we notice the urgency that Mark conveys as he describes how they quickly go to Peter and Andrew’s house. Upon learning of Peter’s mother, they immediately sought Jesus.

- **As we journey through life, let us remember to turn to God first, rather than treating Him as a backup plan.**

THE FEVER LEFT

Jesus, filled with compassion, takes her by the hand and lifts her up. At that moment, the fever leaves her.

- **He longs to show us the same compassion and love, not as a distant “genie in the bottle,” but as a constant presence beside us in our suffering.**

MANY PEOPLE BROUGHT

They waited until the sun went down because the Sabbath had ended. Mark uses hyperbole when he states the whole town was involved.

- We witness the remarkable scale of Jesus’ healings and casting out of demons—a **testament to the advancing Kingdom of God.**

NOT PERMITTED TO SPEAK

Jesus silenced the demons before they could speak, desiring to show Himself as the suffering servant before being recognized as the great King (Mark 10:45).

- **The demons knew who Jesus was but chose to forfeit their relationship with Him. What do we truly desire?**

SOLITUDE (MARK 1:35–39) DESERTED PLACE

After a series of exhausting events and preparing to take His ministry throughout Galilee, Jesus seeks solitude and fellowship with the Father.

- **We need more than community with other brothers and sisters; we must prioritize our relationship with God. Are we seeking Him above all else?**

EVERYONE IS LOOKING FOR YOU

Peter, seemingly frustrated that Jesus was not around as crowds began to form again, expresses his concern.

- **Instead of taking advantage of his popularity in Capernaum, Jesus tells Peter they are going elsewhere. This reminds us that God does not bend to our agendas; instead, He guides us toward His greater purpose.**

THAT IS WHY HE CAME

Jesus came to share the transformative good news of God to everyone. **“The kingdom...has come near. Repent and believe...”** (v. 15).

- **His primary mission was to guide people to make a decision to embrace faith in God, rather than merely to provide relief from pain.**

CLEANSED (MARK 1:40–45) IF YOU ARE WILLING

This exchange is profound because of the laws regarding leprosy (Leviticus 13–14). It required not only healing but also cleansing, **a process only God could accomplish.**

- Leprosy symbolizes a deeper issue than skin; **it spreads, defiles, isolates, and leaves things unfit, or essentially fit only for destruction. This disease is a powerful representation of sin.**

JESUS IS WILLING

The leper broke every societal custom of his time, yet Jesus welcomed him without hesitation.

Going against the law in an act of compassion, Jesus touched him.

- Instead of Jesus contracting leprosy, the man was healed and the disease departed. **Are we holding back, believing we must clean ourselves up before inviting Jesus into our lives?**

GO SHOW YOURSELF

Jesus instructs the man to complete the ritual cleansing as commanded in Leviticus by going to the priest.

- **This not only shows Jesus’ respect for the law but also His profound love for the man as He longs for him to be reunited with his family and community. Are we open to the possibility of our own restoration?**

SAY NOTHING

Even though Jesus told the man not to share what happened, the man did the exact opposite. Why would Jesus say this?

- First, **Jesus did not want to be just a “miracle worker.” He desired to be their Savior, which meant people needed to hear the gospel, rather than merely seek miraculous displays.**

HE STAYED IN THE WILDERNESS

Secondly, He could no longer enter the town openly and was forced to stay in deserted places.

- This beautifully illustrates how Jesus completely switched roles with the leper. **Thankfully, Jesus also switched with us, taking on our burdens and sin, and covering us with His righteousness!**

WATCHING

- There were three basic types of people who wanted to go where Jesus was: those in need of healing, those eager to hear His teaching, and those who simply came to observe.
- **Are we being merely spectators?**
- **Jesus calls us to be more than spectators! We are called to go.**

ADJUSTMENT

- Jesus often sought solitude.
- **Do we seek to find solitude in our lives? This should not be an escape from others, but about deepening our relationship with God.**
- **It is easy to get caught up in “good things” and completely miss experiencing God. What can we reevaluate in our lives to ensure we do not overlook Him?**

MADE CLEAN

- Do we desire to be cleansed from our sicknesses (sin and its desires)?
- **Just as Jesus cleansed the leper, only He has the power to make us whole.**
- **Have we entrusted God with complete authority in our lives, allowing Him to purify not only the areas we choose, but also those He longs to transform?**