

Bible Study #5

Mark 1:21-39

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And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are— the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee. And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. And the whole city was gathered together at the door.

And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Teaching Points:

1. Demons can inhabit religious places.
2. Demons are orthodox in their belief.
3. Demons must submit to the authority of Christ.

Practical Applications:

1. We can speak with authority.
2. Let's not be surprised if healing is painful.

Questions From The Text:

1. Why were the listeners astonished when Jesus' spoke?

Our Lord taught with authority, with the word of God, as opposed to the teaching of the scribes, who would quote rabbinic opinions.

2. Can demons inhabit religious places?

Yes. The man in this account was not in a bar, but in a synagogue. It can happen today. Satan infiltrates the church. Demons deceive and slip into the midst of God's people. See 2 Corinthians 11:14 and 1 Timothy 4:1.

3. A supernatural display of power is always of God. T/F?

It might be Satanic, rather than of God. See 1 John 4:1.

4. Demons are orthodox in their beliefs. T/F?

Yes. They knew who Jesus was (Mark 1:24) and that He is God. They have no problem believing that God is Creator or that He exists.

5. Why did the Lord silence the demons? Do demons have to submit to the authority of Christ?

He did not want people coming to Him because of demonic testimony. Yes, demons must submit to the authority of Christ. He spoke but a word, and the demons obeyed.

6. Does belief alone save someone?

No. The demons believe and tremble, but that doesn't save them. See James

2:19.

7. Can we speak with authority by God's word?

Yes. The Lord didn't quote other's opinions. He quoted God's word. We don't have to quote other people, but we can speak with authority from the word of God.

Further Discussion:

1. Recall a time when you were healed physically, and think of the accompanying hurt. Was it worth it?

2. Think of someone you know who is hurting physically. How can you help?

Memorize:

- "They were astonished at Jesus' teaching, for He taught them as one having authority..." (Mark 1:22)