

FOLLOWING JESUS

WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE

MARK 1:21-28

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS — OCTOBER 3, 2021

LOOK BACK

Discuss how God's Word had an impact last week.

1. Last week, we learned that the call to follow Jesus may not always be a call to desert our previous attachments, but it is a call to devalue our previous attachments. What steps might you have taken, in faith, in the past week to begin releasing these attachments and entrusting both yourself and everything in your life to Him?

LOOK TO GOD'S WORD

Study and apply God's Word as a group.

1. Read this week's passage:

Mark 1:21-28 (English Standard Version)

Chapter 1

21 And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. 22 And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. 23 And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, 24 "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." 25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" 26 And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. 27 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." 28 And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

2. Recap what God is saying to all of us through the passage:
 - Demons are evil angels that have joined Satan in rebellion against God.
 - Satan typically works, not through direct demonic attack, but through day-to-day demonic activity.
 - Jesus is One who has all authority.
 - Abundant life is only found under the authority of Jesus.
3. As you reflect on Sunday's sermon, what insight was particularly distinctive, helpful, encouraging, and/or challenging to you? What insight was difficult to grasp? What aspects of this sermon do you hope we talk about as a group?

LOOK FORWARD

Consider the implications of the passage for His body and His mission in the world.

1. Jesus is One who has all authority.
 - We see, from the beginning of the Bible, that evil is real. (See Genesis 3:1, 1 Peter 5:8, Ephesians 6:11) From today's Bible passage in Mark chapter 1, who are we told has authority, even over unclean spirits?
 - Read and reflect on Isaiah 9:6, Mark 1:22, Mark 1:27, John 3:35, and Jude 25. Jesus reigns (Isaiah 9:6) with authority (Mark 1:22 and 27; Jude 25), meaning He has the power to act and the



provision to act (John 3:35).

- How do you generally respond - in your heart - to earthly authority figures (e.g., institutions or individuals outside of the church that God has established on earth)? What is your instinctive reaction to them? Why?
- Might your instinctive response to earthly authorities influence your response to Jesus' divine authority in some way(s)? If so, how? If not, why not?
- How and why should your response to Jesus' divine authority differ from your response to earthly authorities?

2. Abundant life is only found under the authority of Jesus.

- Read and reflect on John 10:10 and 17:1-3, 2 Corinthians 1:20, Hebrews 7:25, and Revelation 12:10-11. Jesus' authority carries the Lord's eternal purpose and promise. Its eternal purpose is that people may have eternal life, knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent (John 10:10 and 17:1-3). And the Lord promises to fulfill His purpose (2 Corinthians 1:20, Hebrews 7:25, Revelation 12:10-11).
 - What areas or circumstances of life do you find easy to entrust to Jesus' authority, and why?
 - What areas or circumstances of life do you struggle to entrust to Jesus' authority, and why? What questions or doubts might you have about Jesus' a) power, b) provision, c) purposes, and/or d) promises that lead to these struggles?

3. Read Matthew 28:18-20, John 5:27, and John 8:28. Where did Jesus get His authority? What are the implications and responsibilities of being "sent" or "commissioned" by the One to whom all authority in heaven and on earth has been given?