

## AMAZED BY HIS AUTHORITY

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**Mark 1:21-34**

After being baptized, tempted, and tried, Jesus was sent out on his mission to establish the kingdom of God on this earth. When Jesus came to Capernaum, he did not waste time getting to work (accomplishing his mission). Jesus set out to form his mode of operation to his ministry. He came to establish a new world order. He came to conquer Satan and save souls. It was Jesus' regular practice to go to the synagogue on the Sabbath and teach. The people were overwhelmed with the manner and content of Jesus' teachings. Why were they amazed? Jesus taught with authority and not as a teacher of the law. Authority means unique knowledge together with unique power. Jesus was the embodiment of the truth. When he spoke, it did not return void. When he spoke, he brought the dead back to life and healed the sick because he was the Word of God.

The presence of Jesus and his authoritative teaching in the synagogue came against demons. Demons are considered impure. Evil spirits pollute the minds and spirits of people. During Jesus' time there was a strong belief in demons. Whenever God decides to move you into a new level in Him, the enemy rears his ugly head. Satan is diametrically opposed to the truth of God and does not want it to go forth unhindered. He knows that when you know the truth the truth will set you free. When you get serious about radical discipleship, Satan will come after you. He will come anywhere to get you. He comes to church to hold back your worship making you think it doesn't take all of that. He comes to distract you. You have to understand that new levels bring new devils. You don't need to fight people; you need to pray for them. Take authority over the enemy by putting on the whole armor of God. **Ephesians 6:10-20** Put on the whole armor of God so that you can operate in the same authority as Jesus.

While you are carrying out your business from day to day, you need to keep your sword (Bible) on you because you don't know how the enemy is going to attack. In the text, the demon in the man confronted Jesus in church on the Sabbath, **Mark 5:7**. When the enemy confronted Jesus, Jesus did not respond to the accusations. When someone accuses you falsely, sometimes you need to say nothing. You do not have to respond to the accusations. Don't buy into foolishness. Jesus used his authority to rebuke that demon out of the man. The people were amazed that even evil spirits obeyed Jesus. This is the first recorded miracle in Mark. The word spread all over town that Jesus must have been sent by God because he performed this miracle.

Jesus healed Paul's mother-in-law with one touch. She immediately got up to serve him and the disciples. The same hand that helped her is the same hand that healed her. Sometimes Jesus doesn't have to say anything; all he has to do is touch you. Sometimes he doesn't have to touch you; all he has to do is show up so that you will be in his presence. At other times he doesn't have to show up; he just has to send word like he did with the Centurion servant in **Matthew 8:8**. God saves, heals, and delivers us for a reason. We are saved to serve. We are healed to heal others. We are blessed to be a blessing to others. When you are healed by Jesus, you are completely healed. Don't take your time to get to work serving him. The whole town began to bring their sick and demon-possessed to Jesus. We take our sick to the doctor when we should take them to Jesus first. You go to others for help and go to Jesus when those others deny you. We need to do like Peter, James, and John. We need to take Jesus home with us

after church. Peter's house became the house of healing for the town. What is your house for your community? Why do you have demons controlling your community?

There did not appear to be any rhyme or reason to Jesus' mode of operation. Jesus performed random acts of kindness. We should do the same. Start performing random acts of kindness by speaking to people whether you know them or not. Speak and smile. Brothers, open the door for the sisters whether or not you know them. Is chivalry dead? If you have somebody who is sick in your community, go check on them. If you have someone in front of you in a grocery store line that cannot pay for all of their items, help them out. God presents these opportunities to you. Jesus didn't ask the people any questions. He did not ask them what they would do after he healed them. Radical discipleship means changing your heart and attitudes about people. Hear the truth, receive the truth, and do the truth.

Peace.