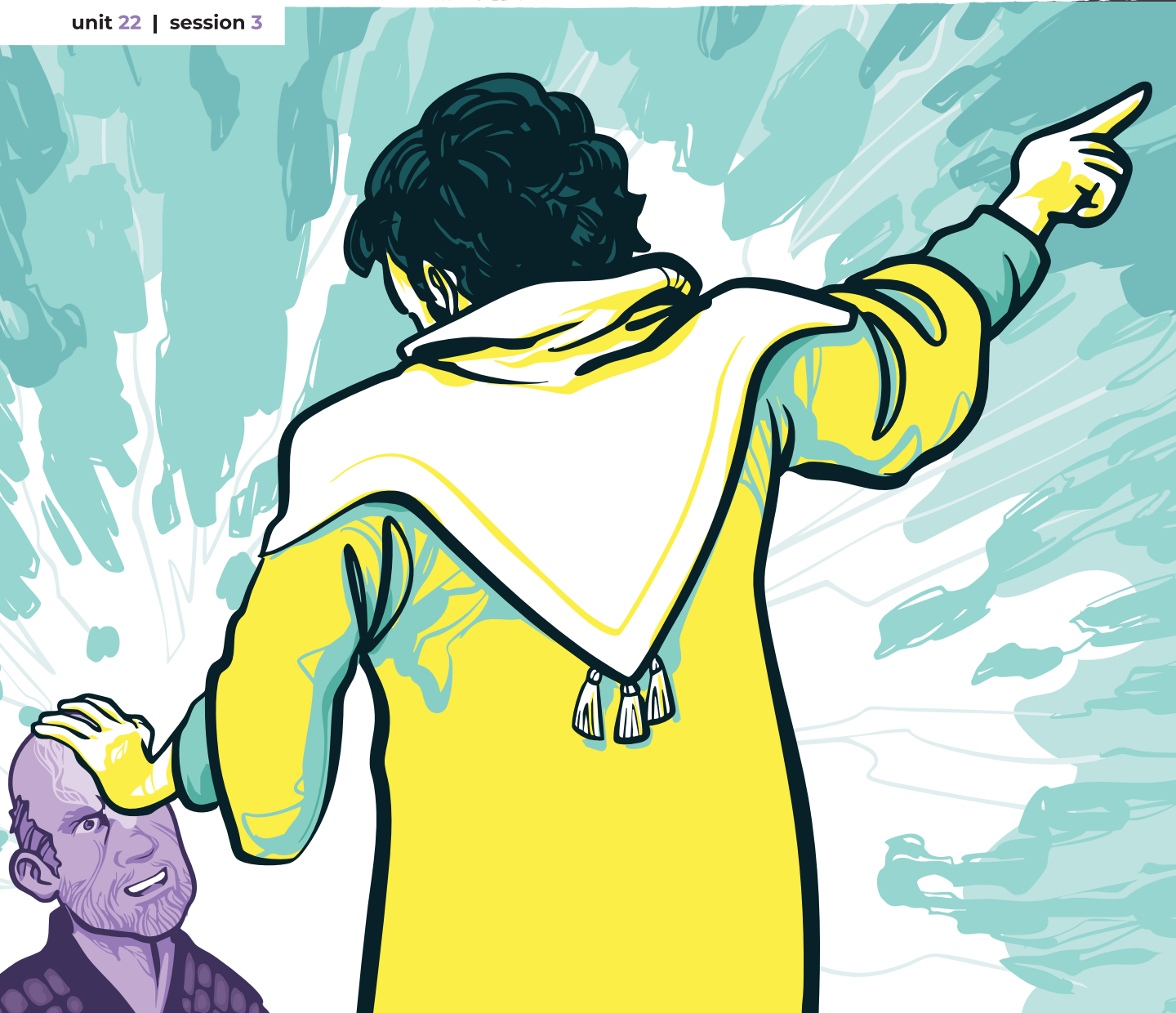


NOT AS *THE SCRIBES*

unit 22 | session 3



CHRIST CONNECTION

When Jesus approached the man who was possessed by demons, even the demons recognized His authority. Jesus would later demonstrate His authority over sin and evil in a greater way through His crucifixion and resurrection. Sin no longer has power over those who trust in Jesus.

LIGHT AND AUTHORITY

This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. But we encourage you to dig in and read all of the content on this timeline.

Mark 1

JESUS HAS AUTHORITY OVER EVIL

MARK 1:21-28

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.

JESUS HAS AUTHORITY OVER SICKNESS

MARK 1:29-34

29 And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. 31 And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. 32 That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. 33 And the whole city was gathered together at the door. 34 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.

MAIN POINT.

We can trust the One who has all authority.



THEOLOGY CONNECTION



DEMONS

Demons are angelic beings who sinned against God and continually do evil work in the world today (Job 1:6; Zech. 3:1; Luke 10:18). Demons oppose God and seek to destroy His work, as seen in the Bible's description of Satan, the head of demons, who seeks to steal, kill, and destroy. Though demons have power, they are limited by God's control and can only act within the constraints of what God permits. In the end, all of the demons will be cast into the lake of fire, for which it was originally created.

DISCUSSION



JESUS HAS AUTHORITY OVER EVIL

MARK 1:21-28

- How did the people react when Jesus cast out the unclean spirit? Why did they respond this way?
-  • What does the unclean spirit know about Jesus? What does this show us about knowing versus following?
-  • What kind of spiritual battles or spiritual darkness do we face? How can knowing that Jesus has all authority over the powers of darkness help us fight?

JESUS HAS AUTHORITY OVER SICKNESS

MARK 1:29-34

-  • What stands out to you about the way Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law?
-  • Why do you think Jesus told the demons to keep silent about Him?
- How did Jesus's ability to heal the sick and cast out demons foreshadow what He would accomplish on the cross?



WHAT DID SIMON'S MOTHER-IN-LAW DO IMMEDIATELY AFTER JESUS HEALED HER? WHY DON'T WE ALWAYS RESPOND IN THIS WAY?

CULTURAL CONNECTION

Culture is fascinated by the spiritual realm, often manifesting as a dangerous interest in darkness and evil. Movies, shows, and books with demonic themes top the charts. You may wonder if taking part in darkness is a big deal for believers. What if it's just for fun? Where is the line? First, we can't let the world define this line. We must confront the idea of believers turning to content with demonic forces for entertainment—media that profits off real powers of evil, whose goal is to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). Even more dangerous, consuming dark content can open doors to demonic attack in the life of a Christian. Scripture forbids us from engaging with Ouija boards, tarot cards, psychics or mediums, or participating in attempts to contact the dead (Deut. 18:10-11; Acts 16:16)—even in the name of “fun” or “pretending.” We shouldn't open any doors to darkness. Why would we even want to associate with the powers of evil, who are completely at odds with God's work and who seek to destroy His work in us?



DAY ONE

JAMES 2:18-19



Can you name your favorite influencer or celebrity? How well would you say that you know them? The truth is that you don't actually know this person; you only know facts about them. You're not actually friends with them, right? You knowing about someone does not mean you know them. Contrast that with what you know about your best friend. You actually know them because you have a friendship with them. You have head knowledge about your favorite influencer; you have heart knowledge of your best friend.

Today's passage points out that head knowledge of God (like the demons who know about God and shudder) isn't enough. The demons believe God is real, but they aren't surrendered to Him. Heart knowledge comes from surrendering to the Lord and allowing the Holy Spirit to transform us. How do we know the difference? Well, it's the difference between works only (without faith) and works that flow from faith. Head knowledge looks like showing up to church on Sunday but telling dirty jokes at school on Monday. Heart knowledge looks like showing up to church on Sunday and then intentionally not telling a lie because you want to honor God with your words and actions. Heart knowledge is being convicted when you do slip up and repenting of your sin. The motivation to honor God is not rooted in a desire to be a "good Christian" but in knowing your heavenly Father is grieved when you sin. And you don't want to grieve Him. When you know God, the Word of God and the Holy Spirit will work within you to produce spiritual fruit in your life (Gal. 5:22-23)—proof of heart transformation instead of head knowledge, faith plus works. A relationship with Jesus—knowing Him—changes us from the inside out.

- **DOES YOUR LIFE SHOW EVIDENCE THAT YOU HAVE HEART KNOWLEDGE OF GOD? HOW?**
- **READ GALATIANS 5:22-23. WHICH CHARACTERISTIC IS THE HARDEST FOR YOU TO SHOW IN YOUR LIFE AND WHY?**

PRAY

**THANK YOU, GOD, FOR YOUR TRANSFORMING POWER
IN MY LIFE. PLEASE HELP ME TO GET TO KNOW YOU
IN A DEEPER WAY TODAY.**



DAY TWO

MARK 1:21-27

The demon quickly submitted to Jesus and obeyed. Read that again. The presence of evil knew who Jesus was and obeyed Him. Think about it: A demon submitted to Jesus's authority, yet as followers, we often resist obeying Him! How quickly do you obey Jesus? When you feel the Holy Spirit urging you to sit with someone who has no friends at lunch, do you obey? When your parents tell you to stay home for the night, how do you respond? If you have a hidden sin, are you holding it close because you enjoy it?

As followers of Jesus, we must quickly follow His commands. Proverbs 4:23 encourages us to guard our hearts because everything we do flows from the heart. This means that when sin creeps in, you repent and turn from it before you get comfortable with it—because that's what happens, right? The first time we give in to temptation, we feel uncomfortable. But the more we give in, the more accepting we become of our sin—the more we justify the sin as not being a “big deal.” When you feel the prompting to talk with someone outside of your circle, you obey. When your parents give you a directive that you don't appreciate, react out of respect because it honors God and them. We can't be slow to obey God. Paul reminds us that we should not continue to sin just because we know God is gracious and asks, “How can we who died to sin still live in it?” (Rom. 6:1-2). Think about it: Why would you overcome sin and then invite it back into your life? Jesus's power is greater than the darkness around us, so don't join it; instead, quickly surrender to His commands and live in the power and peace that He gives.

- **DO YOU QUICKLY OBEY GOD? WHY OR WHY NOT?**
- **IN WHAT WAYS ARE YOU GUARDING YOUR HEART? IN WHAT WAYS ARE YOU LEAVING IT OPEN TO ATTACK?**

PRAY

GOD, PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR THE TIMES THAT I AM SLOW TO OBEY YOU. HELP ME TO OBEY YOU AND HONOR YOU WITH MY THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS.



DAY THREE

1 PETER 4:10-11

When your student pastor announces a mission trip out of state, what are your first thoughts? Do you feel excited to get great pictures for your social media account or a joy that you get to serve the Lord and tell others about Him? If you've served God only for praise, for an aesthetic picture, or for your own benefit, then you've missed out on a much greater blessing.

In this week's lesson, we read about Jesus healing Peter's mother-in-law; she then quickly got up to serve others. Why did she start serving with so much urgency? Because she was a child of God! She had experienced His kindness, and in a lost world, she used the gifts God had given her for His glory and to point others to Him. She got up to serve and used what was most natural for her.

What gifts has God given you to serve the church? What do you naturally love or do well? Maybe you love blending the melody of individual voices into one unified voice; serve on the technology team at your church. Do you love children? Sign up to serve in the children's department. Are you an extrovert who loves to make small talk with others? Ask about being a door greeter on Sunday mornings; look for people who seem nervous to walk through the door and speak to them.

Service to the church doesn't earn you a spot in heaven, but it does glorify God and build the church. If your motivation for serving is selfish, then take a step back, repent of that sin, and begin again. Jesus sacrificed everything so that you can live eternally with Him. Let that be your motivation for using your gifts to serve quickly.

- **WHAT GIFTS HAS GOD GIVEN YOU TO SERVE IN THE CHURCH AND OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH?**
- **HOW CAN YOU SERVE IN A NEW WAY?**

PRAY

GOD, THANK YOU FOR THE GIFTS YOU HAVE GIVEN ME FOR YOUR GLORY. PLEASE GIVE ME THE BOLDNESS TO SERVE YOU IN NEW WAYS.



DAY FOUR

PSALM 103:11-14

When your coach or teacher orders you around but never sees you or treats you as a real person, how do you feel? Contrast that with someone who has taken time to get to know you and care about you as a person. When they give you an order, are you more likely to obey? The difference between these two reactions? Compassion. Trusting that others have your best interest in their heart is more difficult when they haven't taken time to know you, to love you, to show you compassion. Someone who has taken time to get to know us has proven that they care about our heart and the outcome of their request. We follow them more easily.

Today's passage is a reminder that God is compassionate, even though we sin against Him daily. How much love and compassion does He have for you? Verse 12 says that He has thrown out your sins as far as the east is from the west; in other words, He has thrown them out completely. God doesn't want to simply tell you what you can and cannot do. He cares deeply for you and loves you with a love greater than any earthly father. Did you catch the really cool fact in verse 14? God knows what we're made of: dust. He remembers we are frail, weak, and vulnerable. He remembers that we are human. And yet, He is compassionate. Let this truth be a reminder to you today that God is more than a list of rules. He is a loving Father, who wants to have a relationship with you and to take care of you. God has proven His love and compassion for you time and time again, but especially in sending His Son for your salvation.

- **IS IT EASY FOR YOU TO REMEMBER GOD'S LOVE AND COMPASSION TOWARD YOU? WHY OR WHY NOT?**
- **YOU ARE DUST, BUT GOD LOVES YOU ANYWAY. WHAT DOES THAT TELL YOU ABOUT HIS CHARACTER?**

PRAY

GOD, YOU ARE SO GOOD AND KIND. THANK YOU FOR SHOWING ME COMPASSION, AND BY YOUR AUTHORITY, FORGIVING MY SINS.





DAY FIVE

MATTHEW 28:18-20

Have you ever heard someone say, “I made it through the day and never used math once”? The message they are saying is that they learned a skill that was not useful to them and wasted their time in the process. That might be true for some classes you’re required to take in your school career, but that is not true for the message of the gospel. The good news of Jesus is not only a story you can tell but a command for all Christians to share as they go through life. We learned this week that God’s authority comes with compassion, and the gifts He has given you are to be used for His glory. Jesus tells us in Matthew how Christians should spread the good news: As you go in your town, your country, and the world, tell people about Jesus. Everywhere you go is a place where people need the message and hope of the gospel.

Why is it important that you share the gospel? The world needs to understand the authority and compassion of God. They need to hear the hope of salvation from sin and eternal separation from God. They need to hear truth. How can the world hear and understand the gospel? According to Jesus, through you. He commands you to tell them. Because you are under the authority of Jesus, the pressure of a perfect delivery of the gospel is off; you only need to be obedient. You only need to go. The Holy Spirit will go with you and equip you. He will open the doors and give you the words to say. Try this today: As you visit a coffee shop or stand in a checkout line, find the people on the fringes who need to hear good news. Sit down with them. Be a friend. Tell them about Jesus and the difference He has made in your life.

- **IS SHARING THE GOSPEL EASY OR DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO DO? WHY OR WHY NOT?**
- **HOW DOES KNOWING THAT JESUS’S AUTHORITY HELPS YOU SHARE THE GOSPEL TAKE THE PRESSURE OFF?**

PRAY

THANK YOU FOR THE GOSPEL. HELP ME TO SHARE WITH THE PERSON WHO NEEDS TO HEAR IT TODAY.