

# THE CROWD AMAZED

CORE PASSAGE: MARK 1:21-34

## CONTEXT

Mark the Gospel writer was not one of the twelve apostles, but he based his account on the testimony of the apostle Peter, a close companion of his. Mark succinctly and rapidly reported the story of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection. Mark 1 begins with John the Baptist's ministry, Jesus's baptism and temptation, and Jesus's calling the disciples. Jesus was in Capernaum teaching in the synagogue on the Sabbath when He encountered a man with an unclean spirit.

## KEY CONCEPT

**Jesus, as God the Son, has authority over all in the spiritual and physical realms.**

As you examine Mark 1:21-34:

- Recognize that Jesus had authority to drive out unclean spirits.
- Emphasize that Jesus's authority over all things included His ability to heal the sick.



## TIMELINE

Jesus Is Tempted in the Wilderness (Mark 1:12-13)

**SESSION STUDY:**  
Jesus Demonstrates His Authority in Capernaum (Mark 1:21-34)

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man (Mark 2:1-12)

Jesus Ministers in Galilee (Mark 1:14-15)

Jesus Heals a Leprous Man (Mark 1:35-45)

### Daily Readings

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| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 1:</b> Mark 1:21-28    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 4:</b> Matthew 8:18-22 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 2:</b> Mark 1:29-34    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 5:</b> Matthew 8:23-34 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 3:</b> Matthew 8:14-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Day 6:</b> Psalm 56        |



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION

MARK 1:21-26

### JESUS HAS AUTHORITY OVER ALL THINGS SPIRITUAL.

*Underline the unclean spirit's reaction to Jesus. Circle Jesus's response.*

**21** They went into Capernaum, and right away he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath and began to teach. **22** They were astonished at his teaching because he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not like the scribes. **23** Just then a man with an unclean spirit was in their synagogue. He cried out, **24** “What do you have to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” **25** Jesus rebuked him saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” **26** And the unclean spirit threw him into convulsions, shouted with a loud voice, and came out of him.

#### THEOLOGY CONNECTION

**JESUS'S DEITY:** Within the person of Jesus Christ, there are two natures—the divine nature and the human nature. Scripture teaches He is fully divine and fully human. His divinity is on display in passages that describe Him as being equal with God (John 1:1-18; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:1-3). The New Testament also points to the deity of Christ by showing how He possesses attributes that God alone possesses (Micah 5:2; John 1:4), how He performs works that only God performs (Mark 2:5-12; John 10:28; 17:2), and how He Himself claims to be the Son of God (Matthew 26:63-64; John 8:58; 10:30; 17:5).

**Key Concept:** Jesus, as God the Son, has authority over all in the spiritual and physical realms.

Entering Capernaum on the Sabbath, Jesus “right away” went to the synagogue to teach. Teaching was a primary focus of Jesus’s ministry. The people were “astonished” by Jesus’s display of authority through His teaching—it was “not like the scribes” (v. 22). There was something different about Jesus. Imagine listening to someone who not only knows the Scriptures but who understands them fully and speaks of them with Spirit-inspired authority!

So as Jesus was teaching, a man possessed by an unclean spirit interrupted Him. The spirit’s tone was one of chaotic disruption but also fear, for Jesus’s authority was a threat to him. It had been prophesied from the beginning that though Satan would inflict pain, Christ would have the victory (Genesis 3:15). The unclean spirit cried out in fear, wanting to know if Jesus had come to destroy it since it knew that the Holy One of God had authority over all spiritual beings.

**How do people view demons today, and why is it more difficult in modern Western cultures to believe in them?**

With a quick rebuke, Jesus won the battle against the demon; it was no contest. He commanded it to be silent and to come out of the man, and it did, but not without a small tantrum. It threw the man into convulsions, shouted with a loud cry, and finally came out. Jesus was revealing Himself as one with authority over Scripture as well as one with authority over the spiritual realm, which included demons and angels.

Our souls are battling daily with temptations and the fiery arrows of the enemy. On our own, we cannot combat the evil forces that plague our world and mind. Jesus displayed authority over this unclean spirit, and He also has power over every temptation, sin, and unclean spirit that tries to take hold of our affections. Knowing Christ has authority over all things spiritual gives us hope to walk in this broken world with victory. Take great joy in knowing that the One who silenced and cast out the unclean spirit is also able to reign authoritatively and victoriously in you.

**What parts of your spiritual life do you need to yield more fully to Jesus?**



## PERSONAL PREPARATION

MARK 1:27-34

### JESUS HAS AUTHORITY OVER ALL THINGS PHYSICAL.

*Highlight the reactions of the people to Jesus's authority and power.*

**27** They were all amazed, and so they began to ask each other, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” **28** At once the news about him spread throughout the entire vicinity of Galilee. **29** As soon as they left the synagogue, they went into Simon and Andrew’s house with James and John. **30** Simon’s mother-in-law was lying in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. **31** So he went to her, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her, and she began to serve them. **32** When evening came, after the sun had set, they brought to him all those who were sick and demon-possessed. **33** The whole town was assembled at the door, **34** and he healed many who were sick with various diseases and drove out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

#### VOICES FROM CHURCH HISTORY

“Rather than engaging in exorcisms, believers today are called to engage in evangelism. Whenever we bring the gospel to nonbelievers and they put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit washes them clean, takes up residence, and the demons are evicted.”<sup>1</sup>

—John MacArthur (1939–2025)

**Key Concept:** Jesus, as God the Son, has authority over all in the spiritual and physical realms.



After Jesus cast out the demon, the people were amazed and said, “A new teaching with authority!” (v. 27). They saw that teaching with authority went hand in hand with action. But Jesus didn’t stop there. He went into Simon Peter’s house and healed Simon’s mother-in-law, showing He had authority over the physical as well as the spiritual.

After Jesus took Simon’s mother-in-law’s hand and raised her up, she began to serve them, being healed. That is the same response we should have to the authoritative Son of God—immediate and unconditional service to Christ.

**As you reflect on God’s provision in your life, how can you respond in service?**

As news spread about Jesus’s works, the community brought Him all the sick and demon-possessed, and they crowded at the door of Simon Peter’s house. Jesus displayed His authority over the physical and spiritual by healing the sick and casting out demons. And like before, it was not yet His time to be revealed, so He did not permit the demons to speak. Jesus’s actions revealed His identity as the Son of God, although the crowds couldn’t see that. Ironically, only the demons knew who He truly was.

Jesus’s authority over all things helps us see that His claims as the Son of God are indeed true. The foundational revelation that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, required Jesus to graciously work miracles over the physical. The apostle Paul reiterated this truth by claiming that Jews required signs for belief (1 Corinthians 1:22), yet now, as believers in the new covenant, we see Christ’s authority fulfilled and graciously displayed to us in His Word.

**What convinced you or would convince you that Jesus is Lord and Savior?**

#### GOSPEL CONNECTION

Jesus’s authority over the physical world and over the spiritual world includes His authority over Satan and demons as well as over sin, guilt, shame, and death. This authority and power reveals His identity as the Son of God.

## GROUP EXPERIENCE

# JESUS'S AUTHORITY

Read Mark 1:21-34. Record the ways Jesus revealed His authority and power and the corresponding responses of the witnesses.

	JESUS'S AUTHORITY	RESPONSE
THE CROWDS		
THE DEMON		
THE MOTHER-IN-LAW		
ME		

When is it difficult to submit to Jesus's authority?

In what areas of your life do you need to recognize Jesus's authority and submit to it?

**Key Concept:** Jesus, as God the Son, has authority over all in the spiritual and physical realms.



## HEAD

In what ways should you approach the spiritual realm with a belief that Jesus is Lord?

### PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 56. In the midst of fear and stress, pray for complete trust in the Lord, who has the authority to be victorious over all. In times of fear, praise the Lord for His goodness and protection. Pray for complete devotion to God alone, who has authority over all things.



## HEART

How does Jesus's authority over the physical and the spiritual help you in your relationship with Him?

### PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



## HANDS

With whom can you share about Jesus's authority and work in the world this week?

