

Mk. 1:14-28 “A Man of Authority!”

For the Children: Most young people recognize authority and respond to it with obedience. When your dad has that tone in his voice – “I said ‘NOW!’” – you jump to obey him. You obey your teachers and often other adults as well. If a policeman told you to do something, you’d probably do it pretty quickly. Well, the Lord Jesus has much more authority than any of these other people. He has the authority of God. When He tells us to do something, we should be even more eager to obey. **Questions:** What are some of the ways Jesus showed His authority? How did His disciples respond? What are some things He commands people to do in these verses?

Introduction:

First Point: Authority in Preaching and Teaching

- 1) The Gospel of the Kingdom: Even the content of Jesus’ preaching shows His authority. His main theme is the “Gospel of (the Kingdom of) God.” See Mt. 4:23. This is the good news that the Kingdom was near for sinners to enter, because the King had come. He also proclaimed that the “time is fulfilled” – all the preparation of the OT and John the Baptist was finished. Only God could know such things
- 2) Repent and Believe!: The command to repent and believe – because the Kingdom was now near, and because otherwise sinners faced judgement (Mt. 7:13-27) – also showed His authority, that He spoke from God
- 3) Amazement in the Synagogue: This was amazing to the people, because for the last few hundred years they had had only men teaching man’s ideas. There had been no prophets with a “Thus says the Lord.” Jesus even came with His “I say to you,” indicating Divine authority

Second Point: Authority in Calling Disciples

- 1) An Authoritative Call: In calling His disciples, Jesus does not ask or beg, He *commands* them to follow Him. This shows His unique authority
- 2) Dropping Everything: The disciples recognize that authority by dropping what they are doing and following Him *immediately* (vss. 18,20). This was not typical behavior for a Rabbi taking on students!
- 3) Fishers of Men: No ordinary man had the authority to guarantee that He would make men into “fishers of men.” The concept of “fishing” for men comes from the OT (Jer. 16:16; Ezk. 29:4f, 38:4; Amos 4:2; Hab. 1:14-17). There it is used of God reeling men in for judgement. Jesus uses it for *rescuing* them from judgement. This promise indicates the unique authority of the Messiah, to judge and to save

Third Point: Authority in Casting Out Demons

- 1) A Demon in Church: Galilee was in spiritual darkness when the Messiah came (Is. 9:1,2) – as was Israel as a whole. That there is a demon in the synagogue shows how bad things were. But the Messiah came to bring light into the darkness
- 2) A Hostile Encounter: The demon objects to Jesus’ mission to destroy Satan’s domain. He thinks God’s Kingdom and Satan’s kingdom should have nothing to do with each other. Perhaps he hopes the crowd will see Jesus as a trouble-maker. By identifying Jesus as the “Holy One of God,” there is also the possibility that the crowd will turn against Him prematurely
- 3) Silenced and Removed: The Lord silences the demon and casts him out with only a few words – showing the sovereign power and authority of His Word. This authority over demons was a mark of the Messianic Kingdom (Mt. 12:28)
- 4) More Amazement: Jesus preaching and His power over the demonic caused amazement because it was not like that of the Scribes (vss. 22, 27). His reputation spread quickly in the region (v.28). But this amazement had an element of fear. For with the same authority He was telling them to repent and believe and make a radical commitment to Him. Without faith, such demands frighten sinners. We who accept His authority as divine must be sure that we really do repent, and believe and follow Him

Conclusion: