

Mark 1:14-28 ~ Scripture Verses

The Calling of the First Disciples

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Jesus Drives Out an Evil Spirit

²¹ They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²² The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. ²³ Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil [a] spirit cried out, ²⁴ “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

²⁵ “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” ²⁶ The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

²⁷ The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him.” ²⁸ News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

Footnote:

a. Mark 1:23 – Greek unclear; also in verses 26 and 27

[New International Version, NIV, 1984]

Mark 1:14-28 ~ Discussion Questions

1. When Jesus said, “the time has come” and “the kingdom is near” (1:15) was he referring to chronological time (the calendar) or to something else?
2. How did Jesus want the people to respond to the fact that the kingdom of God is near? (1:15) What exactly is repentance?
3. What kind of invitations do you enjoy receiving? Why?
4. How did Jesus get people to follow him? (1:17) Do you think the promise to make them evangelists (fishers of men) was enough incentive to follow Jesus?
5. For what kind of relationships are you willing to sacrifice your own needs? Would you sacrifice personal achievements, job, friends, or even family for the sake of Christ? Do you think Christ really expects us to give up everything to follow him? What prevents you from following Jesus wholeheartedly?
6. Capernaum is a town on the shore of the Sea of Galilee (also known as Tiberias, Gennesaret, and Kinnereth) in northern Israel. Peter and his mother lived there close to the synagogue where Jesus taught. Why was Jesus allowed to teach? What OT scripture did he read? (Luke 4:16-19, Isaiah 61:1-2)
7. What makes a person a good teacher?
8. Why were people “amazed” at Jesus’ teaching? (1:22, 1:27) How do you feel when you are around people of authority? What gives a person authority?
9. Why would a demon-possessed man be admitted to the synagogue? What did the evil spirit say to Jesus? How did Jesus respond? (1:23-25) Do we find demons and evil spirits in churches today?
10. How did the evil spirit respond to Jesus’ command, “Come out of him?” (1:26) Was there a purpose in this act? How did the people respond to this miracle?
11. Demonic activity in the Bible appears in waves with more in Jesus’ time than any other. Why should this be? Are demons still active today? How can we get rid of them?

Mark 1:14-28 ~ Leader's Guide

1. When Jesus said, “the time has come” and “the kingdom is near” (1:15) was he referring to chronological time (the calendar) or to something else?

Not only to chronological time but also to the decisive time for God's action. The coming of Christ proclaiming the good news brought the Kingdom of God nearer to the people. The Kingdom of heaven or of God spoken of throughout the Gospels and in 10 parables is the reign of God that he brings about through Jesus Christ—i.e., the establishment of God's rule in the hearts and lives of his people, the overcoming of the forces of evil, the removal from the world all the consequences of sin (including death), and the creation of a new order of righteousness and peace.

2. How did Jesus want the people to respond to the fact that the kingdom of God is near? (1:15)

Repent and believe. Repentance refers to confession to God, ceasing sin against God, and resolving to live according to God's law. It typically includes an admission of guilt, a promise or resolve not to repeat the offense; an attempt to make restitution for the wrong, or in some way to reverse the harmful effects of the wrong where possible.

4. How did Jesus get people to follow him? (1:17) Do you think the promise to make them evangelists (fishers of men) was enough incentive to follow Jesus?

He simply said, “Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” The call to discipleship is definite and demands a response of total commitment.

6. Capernaum is a town on the shore of the Sea of Galilee (Gennesaret, Tiberias, Kinnereth) in northern Israel. Peter and his mother lived there close to the synagogue where Jesus taught. Why was Jesus allowed to teach? What OT scripture did he read? (Luke 4:16-19, Isaiah 61:1-2)

Jewish custom allowed visiting teachers to participate in the worship service by invitation of the synagogue leaders. He probably read from Isaiah (Luke 4:16-19) in Hebrew and then he or one of the other leaders paraphrased it in Aramaic, the common language of the day.

Isaiah 61:1-2 – ¹ The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for

the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,

8. Why were people "amazed" at Jesus' teaching? (1:22, 1:27) How do you feel when you are around people of authority? What gives a person authority?

More than 10 times, Mark reported that people were "amazed" at Jesus' teaching and actions. In this case, it was Jesus' inherent authority that amazed. Other than reading from Isaiah, he did not quote human authorities as did the teachers of the law because his authority was directly from God. Also, his teaching about the kingdom of God was new and taught with authority (1:27).

Around a person of authority, you generally feel respect, perhaps some awe. Authority can come from position (elected official, manager, judge, policeman) but it can also come from knowledge, experience, confidence and bearing. A person who has studied a subject for many years is more of an authority on it than someone who is unfamiliar with it. If someone has experience programming a computer, he is more of an authority than someone who has never touched one. One six-year-old boy is willing to sound out words he doesn't know while another is afraid he'll be wrong and asks his mother (the authority). [I kind of like the one who is willing to sound them out and predict that one day he will be an authority.]

9. Why would a demon-possessed man be admitted to the synagogue? What did the evil spirit say to Jesus? How did he respond? (1:23-25) Do we find demons and evil spirits in churches today?

It seems the man had lucid intervals; else he could not have been admitted into the synagogue. Such spirits are sometimes found in synagogues and churches, but with no good design; either to disturb the preacher or to divert the hearer, that the word may be unfruitful and unprofitable.

The demon recognizes Jesus and wants nothing to do with him, for he despairs of being saved by him, and dreads being destroyed by him. Matthew Henry comments, "When Christ by his grace delivers souls out of the hands of Satan, it is not without tumult in the soul; for that spiteful enemy will disquiet those whom he cannot destroy." Whenever Jesus drove out spirits the witnesses standing around were amazed that he had the authority to do such things.

10. How did the evil spirit respond to Jesus' command, "Come out of him?" (1:26) Was there a purpose in this act? How did the people respond to this miracle?

One purpose of Jesus ordering the demon out and the demon obeying him was a

sign to reveal and confirm that the doctrine he was preaching was really from God.

It is tempting to be distracted by the miracles themselves...

- a. But as the people deduced on this occasion, there was new doctrine.
- b. So we should focus our attention on what Jesus taught, not on what he did.

Mark 1:14-28 ~ Additional Discussion Questions

1. What did Jesus tell the people they must do beside believe the good news? (1:15) What did that mean in those days? What does it mean today?
2. What sacrifice did James and John make to follow Jesus? (1:20) What does Christ expect us to give up to follow him? (It's different for different people.) Read Matthew 19:16-22; what did that man have to give up? Was he willing to do so? What would you find most difficult to give up to follow Christ?
3. In addition to the ones we discussed, what are some other examples of power and authority?
4. What do Jesus' actions tell us about his beliefs regarding the Sabbath? (1:21)
5. How does Jesus' teaching differ from the teaching we are used to today?
6. What kind of teachers were the people used to that caused them to be amazed by Jesus' teaching?
7. Why should we share the news of Jesus' power and authority with other people, especially non-believers? What's the most effective way to do this?
8. If you get rid of an evil spirit, clean house, and put your life in order, are you then safe? (Matthew 12:43-45)
9. What makes us fearful of claiming Jesus' power over Satan's footholds in our lives today? Why do we doubt Jesus' power? What's wrong with doubting it?
10. What area of your life do you need to place under Jesus' power and authority? What is one way you can show submission to Christ's authority in your life in the next two days?