

A Day with Jesus

Mark 1:21-34

Leader Discussion guide

Illustrations Used:

- When Jesus calls us he doesn't give us a map.
- "Think of Abraham – Leave your country..."
- Jesus' teaching was greater than the scribes... They were like a book with footnotes
- People were astonished – Like what happened at Mount Sinai
- Satan attacked Job. Satan prompted Judas to betray Christ.
- The demons believe and shudder
- Archeologists have discovered the ruins of a synagogue. 30 meters from Peters house.
- Rogers pray with their girls when we lose something, or are sick, or are scared
- Old Hymn: "I must tell Jesus all of my trials..."

Ice-Breaker Idea

Have you ever:

1. Planned to do something difficult or dangerous and when you meet your guide or leader you were calmed by their competence?
2. OR... planned to do something you did not expect to be difficult or dangerous until you met your guide or leader?

Comprehension Questions:

1. Pray and Read the passage together.
 - a. How do we see Jesus' authority in his teaching in v21-22?
 - b. How do we see Jesus' authority over demons in v23-26?
 - c. How do we see Jesus' authority over sickness in v29-31?
2. Verse 21 says that Jesus was teaching in the synagogue. What is a synagogue and how is it different from the temple?
3. Verse 22 says that the people were astonished, amazed, and frightened by Jesus' teaching. Mark compared this feeling to when God spoke from Mt. Sinai. What is this astonished, amazed, and frightened feeling?
4. If Jesus has authority over everything including Satan, demons, and sickness, why doesn't Jesus use his authority to end all demonic activity, all, evil, and all sickness?
 - a. NOTE: This is point 4 on the outline. Take your time working through this answer. This is an important truth for your group to understand.

Application Questions:

1. What would you try for the kingdom of God if you knew you could not fail?
2. Jesus can be trusted with both the big problems of our life and the tiny problems we have. Where do you need to actively trust Jesus more?
3. In light of 2 Peter 3:9, how can we be using the time we have for kingdom purposes? Who can we be praying for in your life?

Extended Outline:

Mark 1:21-34 – A Day with Jesus

Introduction:

Illus: When Jesus calls us to follow Him, he doesn't give us a map, with every step spelled out.

Illus: Think of Abraham – Leave your country, your father's house, to a land I will show you. He doesn't tell him where the land is, or how God will give it to Him. Jesus does tell us that the path of discipleship can be tough.

- Mark 13:13 - John 16:33 – Mark 8:34

App: So, our commitment to follow Jesus on the path of discipleship is not based on a detailed map of the journey. It is based on our confidence in the guide -- in Jesus Himself. If we are going to follow Jesus, we have to have confidence in Jesus. We get that by spending time with Him. That is what the disciples did. In our passage today, these 4 men spend a day with Jesus. As we watch Him, we are meant to have confidence in Him – specifically in His authority.

He spends the day in Capernaum. On the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. Population of about 600 people. This is Simon and Andrew's hometown, and becomes Jesus' home. Matt. 4:13. Mark 2:1.

1. Absolute authority in His teaching (v21-22)

- a. V21 – It is the Sabbath and Jesus visits the synagogue. Jesus teaches.
- b. V22 – Mark doesn't tell us the content – he tells us the reaction: astonished.
 - i. Why? “for he taught them as one who had authority.”
 - ii. Then he explains further: “not as the Scribes.”
 1. A Scribe's authority came from citing sources.
 - a. **Illus:** Like a book with footnotes.
- c. Jesus' teaching is entirely different.
 - i. His authority didn't come from years of study. “He spoke to them as one who had authority” in Himself. In his person.
- d. Hebrews 1:1-2 –
 - i. [The NT presents Jesus as our King - rules. As our Priest – offers His life as a once for all sacrifice. And as our Prophet – In Jesus we hear God speaking. This is God, the Son.]
- e. V22 – People are astonished, amazed. FRIGHTENED.
 - i. **Illus:** Similar to what happened when God spoke from Mt. Sinai.

2. Absolute authority over demons (v23-26)

- a. V23 - As Jesus finishes his teaching, a man begins to cry out. This man has an “unclean spirit.” This is a demon with a separate personality from the man, who is now dominating his life.
 - i. Demons are real, personal, powerful spiritual beings. The Bible teaches that Satan and his demonic forces are a cause behind much of the evil and suffering we experience in the world.
 - ii. **Illus:** Satan attacked Job. Satan prompted Judas to betray Christ. Ephesians 2 - people walk according to Satan, who is the spirit at work in people who disobey God. Ephesians 6 we are told that our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces.

- i.** Jesus didn't come to confront demons one by one. Not to heal as many sick as he could. He came to preach. Remember what he preached? 1:15 – “The kingdom is here, repent/believe the gospel.”
- d.** We think we like the idea of God wiping out all wickedness. Until we remember that evil and opposition to God are not just out there – it is not just the demons and school shooters and dictators that are rebelling against God. Rebellion against God's kingdom is in every human heart. “All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned, every one, to his own way.”
 - i.** The Bible promises that Jesus will one day come and set up His eternal kingdom of peace and judge all rebels.
- e.** But first, He came to get us. He came to preach good news – to call us back from our rebellion. “Repent and believe the gospel.” Follow Me.
 - i.** Why the delay?: 2 Peter 3:9 – “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”
- f.** He came to do more than preach: He came to accomplish a victory that would rescue us, not just from the effects of being in a world filled with sin. No, he came to rescue us from our sin, and from our guilt. He did this by taking our sin on Himself at the cross. The King came to die. And then, a few days later, he rose forever from the dead.
 - i.** That is what Jesus came to do. The one who has all authority, used His authority to lay down His life for our sins. Now the door of the kingdom is wide open. He calls us all to come in. And He calls us to go into a world that is suffering, and rebelling, and perishing – and tell them the good news.