

Mark Chapter 1: v. 16-45.

¹⁶ And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." ¹⁸ They immediately left their nets and followed Him. ¹⁹ When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the *son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also *were* in the boat mending their nets. ²⁰ And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went after Him. ²¹ Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. ²² And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴ saying, "Let *us* alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!" ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" ²⁶ And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. ²⁷ Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? What new doctrine *is* this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him." ²⁸ And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee. ²⁹ Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ But Simon's wife's mother lay sick with a fever, and they told Him about her at once. ³¹ So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her. And she served them. ³² At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. ³³ And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴ Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him. ³⁵ Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and those *who were* with Him searched for Him. ³⁷ When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." ³⁸ But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth." ³⁹ And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons. ⁴⁰ Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, "If You are willing, You can make me clean." ⁴¹ Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out *His* hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." ⁴² As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed. ⁴³ And He strictly warned him and sent him away at once, ⁴⁴ and said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing those things which Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." ⁴⁵ However, he went out and began to proclaim *it* freely, and to spread the matter, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter the city, but was outside in deserted places; and they came to Him from every direction.

Introduction

Last month we had an introduction to Mark's Gospel and discovered that Jesus is connected both to the Old Testament, to the ministry of John the Baptist and connected to the Trinity of God. (Father / Son and Holy Spirit)

We also discovered that if we are going to be connected with Jesus and His future plans for a world without sin, sickness and death, we will need to repent and believe in the gospel.

The Gospel is very clear.

God created us perfect for a relationship with Himself.

Through the disobedience of the first created people, Adam and Eve, the relationship between God and mankind was broken.

In Romans 5: v. 12 we are told that because of Adam's disobedience, the punishment of death was given to all people.

We were created to live forever with God, so that is quite a punishment.

However God loved His created people and provided a way for mankind to be forgiven their sin. Firstly it was through the death of an animal as a substitute for the death of a person. Eventually God sent His Son Jesus Christ, as a once and for all sacrifice. If you accept His Son's sacrifice as a punishment for your personal sin, then you will be forgiven and spend forever in Heaven with your creator. So when I mention the "Gospel" this is what I mean.

Mark now begins to prove that Jesus is the "Real Deal." or as they say in America - the real McCoy.

Mark does this by pointing out His authority. The reason that Mark does this is that the Old Testament expectation was that God would send His King / Messiah who would have great authority and rule His people forever.

(Is. 9: v. 6-7 N.K.J.)

⁶ For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

So with this expectation from the Prophet Isaiah in mind, Mark points out the "Authority" of Jesus in 4 ways.

1. His Authority to call men - v. 16-20

The Jewish Rabbis traditionally waited for people to follow them, however Jesus sovereignly chooses his disciples here.

These people were uneducated fishermen.

They were not chosen for their academic ability, but they were chosen for their availability. The call of Jesus upon our lives is not something to discuss or debate; it is a command to obey immediately.

There are three things here that the Bible makes clear. These are:

1-1. The call of Jesus is an immediate thing.

You can't put it off. Opportunities don't always come.

You must decide to follow Jesus when He speaks to your heart.

(v.18 - they immediately left their nets)

1-2. The call of Jesus may involve giving up your job and means of support and trusting in Him to provide for you.(v. 18)

The fishermen left their jobs and the security of them to follow Jesus.

Jesus called them to follow Him and therefore He was going to provide for them.

Not everybody is called of God to give up their jobs and all that they have to follow Jesus; however one thing that I do know from personal experience is that the Jesus who calls you will provide for you.

Not one of the disciples lack provision from Jesus.

Although Jesus today normally provides for full time workers through praying people, if it is needed He can provide a miracle to provide for His servants.

God provided bread every day except Sunday for nearly 3 million people in the desert, so we can be sure if God calls us to give up our jobs and follow Him, then He will provide for us.

1-3. The call of Jesus will be a challenge to your family ties. (v. 20) Hired servants means that it was a

big fishing business.

When Jesus calls somebody to serve Him and their family don't understand, it's hard. It may be because they are not Christians and it may be that they are Christians but for them, their Christian life has not experienced God's provision in a miraculous way.

They want their child to have a proper job. I have people say that many times.

Working for the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, is a proper job, but it's the hardest job in the world. However, there is still a cost for the called of God, they still love their family and want to be with them, but JESUS has authority to call those whom He chooses.

2. His Authority to Teach - v. 21-22

When Jesus speaks, He speaks as one who has authority.

People were amazed about His teaching, it gripped their hearts.

There was something different about His teaching, compared with the Scribes and the educated people. Jesus still speaks today through His word, the Bible and through His servants who preach the Bible.

v. 22 makes it clear that the teaching of Jesus was "Divine Wisdom", this was not a man made thing.

If we profess to be believers of Jesus then His words must have authority over our lives.

In 2 Corinthians Chapter 6: v. 11- Chapter 7: v. 1. There are some challenging words.

2 Corinthians Chapter 6: v. 11- Chapter 7: v. 1

¹¹ O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open. ¹² You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your *own* affections. ¹³ Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open. ¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." ¹⁷ Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." ¹⁸ "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty." ⁷ Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Over the last 20 years I have had to counsel some people who have got into very difficult situations, both in business and in personal relationships because they have failed to obey v. 14.

They did not want the words of Jesus to have authority over their lives.

We must never date a non Christian, hoping that they will become a Christian and we must never go into a business partnership or any other partnership with a non Christian. This is very important.

May we be open for Jesus speak to us through His word this week?

3. His Authority over evil spirits - v. 23-28.

In these verses Jesus confronts evil and immediately has the victory over it.

It is interesting that the evil spirit recognises who Jesus is.

There is a lot of evil in our world today.

I don't know if it is true but some Missionaries say that there are more demons in Japan than in any other country in the world.

Doubtless there are a lot of men and women possessed with evil spirits.

Jesus shows here that He has authority over the devil and his agents.

The Bible says that the devil is a murderer, and there is no doubt that people like "Hitler" was possessed by an evil spirit.

During great Revivals in the world when the Holy Spirit is working in a very powerful way there are many cases of deliverance from evil spirits.

During the "Revival" in Zulu land, South Africa, "witch doctors" and the demon possessed kept coming to the evangelist that God was using in the Revival.

Every time the evangelist commanded the evil spirits to leave in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, there was strong struggle but the demons left.

(quote from Kurt Koch - Revival in Zulu Land - page 132)

4. His Authority over sickness - v. 29 - 31 & v. 32-34.

In these passages we have a private miracle, followed by many public miracles.

It was wonderful for these people who were healed, but in v. 38 Jesus declares that this is not the reason why he came.

³⁸ But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth."

He came to preach the Gospel, the people Jesus healed were both a show of compassion and to point to his divinity and victory over the effects of sin and the fall of man.

This side of Heaven we will always have sickness and death.

Jesus didn't want followers who were after the fringe benefits of his teaching.

He wanted them to hear the gospel message.

It is possible to be healed by Jesus and yet spend eternity in Hell.

Jesus knew that too.

Many people are after the perfect life here and now on this earth.

They don't want to die, they don't want to get sick, they don't want to get old.

However Jesus has saved the perfect life for later in Heaven.

This life is not what it's all about, we are only passing through.

James 4: v. 14 says what is your life ? It is even a vapour that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

The issue is not whether you are well physically, but whether you are well spiritually!!!!!!!!!!

There is only one way to get to Heaven and that, says Jesus is by "Repenting and Believing " in the Gospel Message.

In v. 32-34 there was a public healing as Jesus had compassion on the sick.

However Jesus was mainly concerned with one thing. v. 38, He says I have come to preach the gospel, not to heal the sick, healing of the body is only temporary, but the healing of the soul in Salvation is not only permanent it is eternal.

In Heaven there is the promise of a body that will not get sick or decay and will not die.

In v. 40-44 - Jesus heals a Leper, but in v. 44 Jesus told him not to tell anybody, but to just go and see the Priest to deal with the Law on the subject of cleansing of a Leper etc. (Lev. 14: v. 1-32)

Jesus was very clear, He didn't have a ministry of healing.

His ministry was to preach the gospel. He healed people because of His compassion and to point to His divinity, He was God in human form.

Jesus had a different mission than most people expected.

He was concerned with the Salvation of the SOUL.

So this morning we have looked at the subject of the Authority of Jesus.
We have learnt that Jesus has the authority to call men and women to serve Him.

He has authority in His Teachings.

The Bible is His sole Authority - we must obey it.

He has authority over sickness and can compassionately choose to heal if it is His will to do so. However that is not why He came.

Application -

Does Jesus have authority over your life?

Q. What areas in our lives does Jesus NOT have authority over ?

Q. Are we prepared today to say to Jesus, you can have authority over that area from today.

If you do, expect Jesus to test your heart.

Q. Why are you interested in Christianity? Is it for what you might get here and now on this earth? or is for forgiveness of your sins and an eternal home in Heaven.?

We need to answer these questions honestly.

Our time of Communion today is to remember why Jesus came.

He came to die and take the punishment of our sins.

We will not benefit from it personally until we realise our sin, repent of our sin and receive personal forgiveness from Jesus.

Are you willing to do that today?