

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 15, 2015

Passage: Mark 1:21-28

Memory Passage: Mark 1:21-28

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 1:21-28.** To whom does “they” refer in v. 21, and why is this relevant?
- (b) Locate Capernaum on a map of Jesus’ ministry. Why do you think Jesus moves to Capernaum (cf. Matt. 4:13-16)?
- (c) Did the scribes have no authority when they taught? How were people able to distinguish that Jesus had authority?
- (d) How do you think the scribes responded to the people’s astonishment over Jesus’ teaching?
- (e) Why do you think Mark declined to tell us the content of Jesus’ astonishing preaching?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 1:21-28.** Why do you think the unclean spirit led the man into the synagogue at this particular time, or do you think he was a regular synagogue attendee?
- (b) The unclean spirit asks Jesus 2 questions and makes one statement (v. 24). Explain the meaning & significance of each.
- (c) Why does the unclean spirit speak of being “us” (v. 24) when Mark clearly tells us there is only one unclean spirit?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 1:21-28.** For which of the unclean spirit’s questions/statement does Jesus rebuke him?
- (b) For what reason does Jesus command the unclean spirit to “be silent?”
- (c) Why does the unclean spirit “convulse” the man and “cry out” when he obeys Jesus?
- (d) Why does the unclean spirit recognize Jesus for who He is before the people do?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 1:21-28.** Are the people more amazed at Jesus’ teaching or His ability to cast out demons? Why?
- (b) What was “new” about Jesus’ teaching in the minds of those who heard Him in the synagogue?
- (c) How was the people’s understanding of Jesus’ authority furthered by the fact that He cast out this demon?
- (d) What is Mark’s purpose in placing this event at the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry (remember that Mark is driven by theological, rather than chronological, concerns)?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 1:21-28.** In what ways are you “astonished” and “amazed” when you come in contact with Jesus’ teaching?

(b) By what other “authorities” are people around you living? To what other authorities are you tempted to submit, and how does remembering Jesus’ authority help you overcome these temptations?

(c) Do you see evidence of demonic activity in the lives of people in the Cabot area? How should believers respond?

(d) How do/should you demonstrate Jesus’ authority to the world around you?

(e) How does the fact of Jesus’ authority affect your evangelism? Your parenting? Your political involvement? Your practice of complaining? Your practice of worrying?

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Astonishing Authority