



Unit .21

Session .01

Jesus Reveals His Power

Scripture



Mark 1:21-28, 35-42

21 And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. **22** And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. **23** And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, **24** “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” **25** But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” **26** And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. **27** And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” **28** And at once his fame spread

everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee. ... **35** And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. **36** And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, **37** and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is looking for you.” **38** And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.” **39** And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons. **40** And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.” **41** Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, “I will; be clean.” **42** And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.

What makes someone recognizable and believable as an authority on a subject?

What does it mean for you to submit things in your life to Jesus' power?



99 Essential Doctrines

Jesus' Deity

Within the person of Jesus Christ, there are two natures—the divine nature and the human nature. Scripture teaches He is fully divine and fully human. His divinity is on display in passages that describe Him as being equal with God (John 1:1-18; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:15-20; Heb. 1:1-3). The New Testament also points to the deity of Christ by showing how He possesses attributes that God alone possesses (Mic. 5:2; John 1:4), how He performs works that only God performs (Mark 2:5-12; John 10:28; 17:2), and how He Himself claims to be the Son of God (Matt. 26:63-64; John 8:58; 10:30; 17:5).

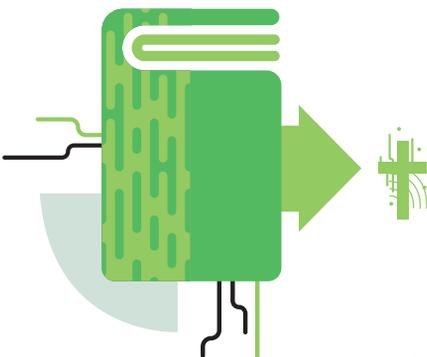
Main Point

Jesus' teaching and miracles reveal His divinity.

What are some things in your life that are easy/difficult to submit to Jesus' power?

What are some practical things that remind you of your mission to share the gospel with others?

What are some situations in your school or community that should move you to act with the compassion of Christ?



Christ Connection

From the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry, the people recognized that He was different. Jesus taught with authority and performed miracles to fulfill the purpose of His earthly ministry and show that He is the Son of God, the One who came to proclaim and provide salvation.

What kinds of fears or prejudices might hinder us from being moved with the same compassion of Christ?

How will you act in faith, in light of the power and compassion of the Son of God?

Our Mission



Head

Share of a time when you misjudged someone's intentions, or when someone misjudged your own.

Why should Jesus' singular focus of His life and mission influence the way we think about our own? What are some things that distract us from our true purpose in life?



Heart

What can we learn about compassion from this account?

Why is it important to have both feelings of compassion as well as actions of compassion?



Hands

What does Jesus' identity as the Son of God influence the way He lives His life?

How should our identity as adopted sons and daughters of God through Christ change the way we address needs in our schools, neighborhoods, and families?

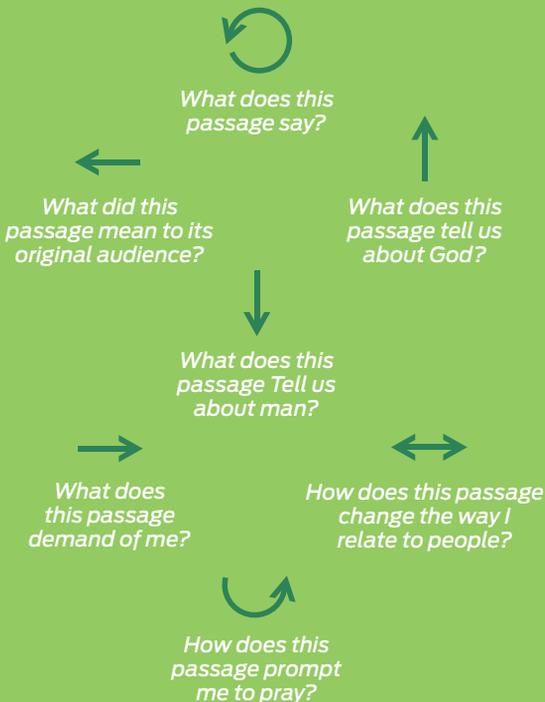
Daily Devotions



Day 1

Mark 1:21-28

The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Consider how we respond to authority figures. Sure, sometimes we hold them in the highest esteem, but you know there are plenty of times when people resent and reject authority figures. For example, what child didn't buck a parent's authority at some point in his or her life? We all have a built-in tendency to struggle with authority because authority comes from outside of us and commands us to obey the will of another. This we don't like.

But the Jews in Capernaum marveled at the authority inherent in Jesus' teaching and miracles. He was so unlike anything they had ever encountered. He appealed to Himself as the reason to be heard, believed, and obeyed. With a mere statement, He commanded a demon and it obeyed Him. So the question comes to us: "When you read God's Word and observe the authority of Jesus throughout its pages, do you reject Him or do you marvel, believe, and obey Him?"

How have you marveled at the Scriptures' testimony regarding Jesus, the Son of God?

Mark 1:29-34

The miracle stories in the Bible are fascinating as they reveal the power of God to override the natural order of things for His glory. Most often these miracles also work for the benefit and blessing of God's people. On this night in Capernaum, the Lord Jesus healed numerous people—all those who were sick and demon-possessed in the town. He began with Peter's mother-in-law; Jesus healed her of a fever and raised her up from her bed.

Presumably, word had spread of Jesus' casting out the demon from the man in the synagogue and His healing of Peter's mother-in-law. When God does the miraculous in our lives, it draws attention. If we aren't careful, we may pull that attention toward ourselves and away from God, seeking our own glory instead of His. To this temptation, we should learn from Peter's mother-in-law. Miraculous healing, whether physical or spiritual—such as salvation from sin—is not cause for sitting back to relish in the attention but to serve our Savior and direct attention to Him.

How are you serving your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, because of His saving work in your life?

Mark 1:35-38

Miracles, healings, exorcisms. Jesus was a busy man in His ministry to the town of Capernaum. He displayed power beyond human ability and human comprehension, so naturally, people wanted to see more. The people searched for and sought after Jesus; everyone wanted to find Him so He could do more to bless them and impress them.

While the people were seeking Jesus, Jesus was not seeking after the attention; Rather He sought to do the will of His Father who sent Him into the world to save it. So, though He had been healing people well into the night, He got up early to be alone with His Father and pray. The miracles were important, but the message was paramount. He could have stayed to perform more miracles, but He left to preach the message of the gospel in other villages. Miracles could heal the body, but the message heals both body and soul for eternity.

What are some ways you need to prioritize the message of God's Word in your life?

Mark 1:39-45

So much can be communicated by human touch: love, friendship, sadness, anger, and much more. God created us with the capacity and need for human touch. In fact, science shows that human touch has great health benefits for the newborn and throughout life.

So it should come as no surprise to us that Jesus would reach out in compassion and touch a leper as He healed him of his skin disease. But this would have surprised the Jewish audience looking on. Not only was the leper unclean from a skin disease, he was unclean in a religious sense, and both were contagious. To touch someone or something unclean was to become unclean yourself. But Jesus touched the leper so that His cleanness would wash over the leper. Disease, sin, guilt, and shame—these stand no chance before the compassionate touch of our Savior.

How have you experienced compassion, even the compassion of Christ, through another person?

Mark 2:1-12

You could focus on the paralytic, helpless yet cared for by others. You could focus on the friends, who exhibited faith and brought their friend to Jesus to be healed. You could focus on the scribes with their questions and assumptions. And all of these people are important for this story, but to focus on them to the exclusion of Jesus' words and works would be missing the point.

This isn't a story ultimately about the grace of friends; it is a story about the great grace of God communicated through the Son of Man, God in the flesh. Previously in Capernaum, Jesus had taught with authority and healed numerous people, and the people loved Him for it. But now the scribes objected to His proclamation—only God can forgive sins! Of course, that was the point. Jesus came into the world to forgive sins, to save sinners, and His healing of the paralytic proved His ability to forgive sins. All glory to God!

How will your forgiveness in Christ lead you to glorify God in your words and actions?