

**Trinity Baptist Church**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020**

**Louise Brady - Jesus' Authority**

**Introduction**

- Have a think about the word '**authority**'.
- What feelings and experiences come to mind when you think of authority?
- What are some examples of authority? Who are they? How do they act? Are they positive or negative forms of authority?
- Today's passage we are going to be looking at is Mark 1 vs 21-34. We are going to be exploring the theme of **Jesus' authority**.

**1. Jesus' Authority in Teaching**

- Firstly, straight away, we have Jesus' authority in teaching.
- I love the fact that Jesus has gone into a synagogue and began to teach. People straight away were amazed, us preachers are generally just happy if you stay awake!
- People were amazed, because he taught them with **authority**, an authority they hadn't experienced before.
- By amazed Mark is reinforcing to us that Jesus was constantly filling people with wonder, awe, and fear.
- We are not told what Jesus was specifically teaching about, but Mark has already given us a summary, or a snapshot of what it probably was, in verses 14-15:

*After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come", he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news".*

- You can see how this would have been a different teaching. The other teachers in the synagogue are referred to as 'teachers of the law'. Sounds pretty dry.
- What Jesus is teaching is clearly fresh, different, and authoritative. The kingdom of God **HAS** come near. **REPENT AND BELIEVE** the good news.
- Jesus had authority in his teaching, and it made people sit up and listen.

**2. Jesus' Authority in Healing**

- Mark then moves on to two instances of healing:
  - i) First the man possessed by an impure spirit
  - ii) Second, Simon's mother in law
- The first, the man possessed by an impure spirit. Once again we are not given any more detail, so this could be a literal possession, or a way Mark is describing a form of illness, mental or otherwise, we don't know. Gospel writers usually make a distinction between an illness and possession, but here we are not given one.
- We tend to get uncomfortable about demons and possession, but the Bible accounts and tells us these healings for a reason, not to become complacent of the spiritual battle we face daily.

- What we do get from this exchange is that the impure spirit knows exactly who Jesus is, and addresses him with his earthly name (Jesus of Nazareth), but also recognises him as 'The Holy One of God'.
- Jesus' response are two commands 'be quiet', and 'come out of him'. 6 words!
- Jesus' authority is so much so, the impure spirits obey him, fear him.
- We get a subtle reminder of Jesus' purpose in all of this also, the impure spirit asks if he has come to destroy them. They know Jesus has the authority and power, and can destroy them, and will destroy them...
- But Jesus doesn't want this known yet, so he silences them.
- The second healing is more straightforward, once again a brief account, but this time it is very much a sense of the disciples with Jesus. Jesus teaching and the exchange with the impure spirits was very much Jesus, but something shifts in this story, more use of 'they'.
- Jesus physically heals Simon's mother in law, takes her hand, helps her up, and they all spend time together after.
- We see Jesus being something relational in his ministry.
- The passage then goes on to tell us that Jesus continues to heal people with diseases and drove out many demons. But wouldn't let them speak, because they knew who he was...
- We are ultimately reminded of Jesus' authority in healing, both spiritually, and physically.

### **3. Authority in the Kingdom**

- Both Jesus' words and works in this passage reinforce Jesus' authority in teaching and healing, and point us towards the kingdom.
- As I mentioned before, Jesus addresses this earlier on, proclaiming the good news and telling people that the kingdom of God has come near.
- We are a part of this.
- We should also be amazed, in awe, in wonder, reverent fear of Jesus.
- But how amazing is it that we are part of it, that we can also play a part in bringing the kingdom here, that through Jesus' death and resurrection, he is victorious over all things, and gives us authority through the Spirit.
- It is a great privilege, but also a great responsibility to be part of God's kingdom, and part of His church.
- We are here to continue the work, show a glimpse of the kingdom here on earth, point to Jesus.
- Do we proclaim the good news with authority? Or is it easier for us to shy away from the authority we have been given by Jesus to continue His work?

### **RESPONSE**

- Have you felt encouraged by this passage, that Jesus' authority is one that you can trust? That no matter what, Jesus has authority over all things.
- Do you allow Jesus the full authority in your life? How can you make sure you do?
- Are there any particular situations you are finding difficult to give Jesus authority over?

