

## Jesus' Authority (Mark 1:21-2:12)

20-June-25

### **Isaiah 35:3-6**

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the feeble hands,  
     steady the knees that give way;  
<sup>4</sup> say to those with fearful hearts,  
     “Be strong, do not fear;  
 your God will come,  
     he will come with vengeance;  
 with divine retribution  
     he will come to save you.”  
<sup>5</sup> Then will the eyes of the blind be opened  
     and the ears of the deaf unstopped.  
<sup>6</sup> Then will the lame leap like a deer,  
     and the mute tongue shout for joy.  
 Water will gush forth in the wilderness  
     and streams in the desert.

### **Mark 1:21-2:12**

#### **Jesus Drives Out an Impure Spirit**

<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup> The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. <sup>23</sup> Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, <sup>24</sup> “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”  
<sup>25</sup> “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” <sup>26</sup> The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.  
<sup>27</sup> The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup> News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

#### **Jesus Heals Many**

<sup>29</sup> As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. <sup>30</sup> Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they

immediately told Jesus about her. <sup>31</sup> So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

<sup>32</sup> That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> The whole town gathered at the door, <sup>34</sup> and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

### **Jesus Prays in a Solitary Place**

<sup>35</sup> Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. <sup>36</sup> Simon and his companions went to look for him, <sup>37</sup> and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!”

<sup>38</sup> Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.” <sup>39</sup> So he travelled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

### **Jesus Heals a Man With Leprosy**

<sup>40</sup> A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.”

<sup>41</sup> Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” <sup>42</sup> Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

<sup>43</sup> Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: <sup>44</sup> “See that you don’t tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.” <sup>45</sup> Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

### **Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man**

**2** A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. <sup>2</sup> They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. <sup>3</sup> Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup> Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying

on. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

<sup>6</sup> Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, <sup>7</sup> “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

<sup>8</sup> Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? <sup>9</sup> Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? <sup>10</sup> But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, <sup>11</sup> “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” <sup>12</sup> He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

Please have your **Bibles opened** to **Mark 1** – starting from verse 21.

There’s an **outline** for you to take **notes**. Let me **pray** first. Let’s pray...

### Intro/Authority

This morning we are going to be talking about **Jesus’ authority**.

So we’d better **define authority**

### **[Slide-Authority]**

*The power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience.*

Speaking of authority...

*Every year in July – all the ministers in NSW plus one elder from each church meet for an Assembly in Sydney. A few hundred people attend.*

*And each year a Moderator is elected to run the Assembly.*

*The moderator has the responsibility to run the meeting properly – and as each item on the agenda is presented — he deals with each motion brought before the assembly – he makes difficult decisions especially when there are differing points of view – and he has to make rulings on what should happen for each item of business.*

*The moderator seems like he is the boss of the Assembly.*

*However, any ruling he makes – can be challenged by a member of the Assembly and the Assembly can even vote that the Moderator is wrong.*

*It occurs to me that the Moderator has ALL the responsibility but actually NO authority whatsoever!*

In our NT reading this morning – Jesus' authority is NOT like the Moderator.

Jesus has **FULL** authority!

Let's explore this morning **what Jesus' authority looks like.**

### 1. Jesus has authority over TEACHING (Mark 1:21-22)

1<sup>st</sup> – **Jesus has authority over TEACHING** – look at verses 21-22

**[Slide-#1]**

Jesus goes to Capernaum on the Sabbath Day and teaches in the synagogue there.

V22 - *The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law*

It seems that the teachers of the law often quoted learned rabbis and relied on traditions – whereas Jesus spoke with **personal divine authority from God** – as

God's Son – and He didn't need to quote anyone else. He simply declared God's truth directly.

Jesus didn't merely pass on information – His teaching - challenged people's thinking – convicted them of their sin – and compelled them to make changes in their life.

### Application:

For us – whose words are we listening to?

The media?

Our politicians?

Some self-appointed expert?

Someone who seems to be influential?

Someone who's misquoting the Bible?

Someone who has their own spin on the truth – or maybe a half-truth?

Instead...

We need to be checking that the truths people say and teach – actually line up with the Bible [[we may need to know our Bible for that!](#)]

We are to listen to Jesus' words with an open heart and let His truth guide our daily decisions.

Jesus Himself says “**Everyone on the side of truth – listens to me**” (John 18:37)  
(pause)

## 2. Jesus has authority over IMPURE SPIRITS (Mark 1:23-28)

2<sup>nd</sup> – **Jesus has over authority over IMPURE SPIRITS** – vv23-28

### **[Slide-#2]**

Whilst Jesus is in the synagogue a man possessed by an impure or evil spirit cries out to Jesus – v24 - “*What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!*”

A few things we can learn from this:

- Jesus’ true identity is known in the Spiritual realm – the title “the Holy One of God” reveals Jesus’ divinity
- Jesus has authority over evil – the demons feared that Jesus had come to destroy them – this shows Jesus poses a threat to their kingdom of darkness
- It also shows there is a spiritual battle going on in the Spiritual Realm – evil cannot remain hidden when Jesus - the “Light of the World” comes along
- Also **knowledge of Jesus** (even if supernaturally from a demon) is not enough if we don’t have faith. **Knowing who Jesus is, is not the same as trusting and following Him!**

We also see Jesus’ power and authority to remove this impure spirit – in v25 Jesus simply says “*Be quiet!*” – “*Come out of him!*” – and the impure spirit came out!

Just like when God created the world and everything in it – **by speaking** – Jesus has that same power and authority – **to speak and things happen**. Jesus is in the business of re-creating what is broken in our fallen world.

### **Application:**

For us – Satan and his demons – don't like us believing in Jesus – and they don't like us telling other people about Jesus – so they will attack us! Attack our marriages, our families, our church family, our relationships – have us bickering with each other – misunderstanding each other – accidentally hurting each other. We are in a spiritual battle – whether we recognize it or not.

And Jesus is the answer – because He has authority over Satan and his demons. We must simply pray for Jesus to protect us in this spiritual battle – and remember to put on God's armour (Ephesians 6) each day!

The Lord's prayer says – ***lead us not into temptation – and deliver us from evil (or the evil one)...***

(pause)

### **3. Jesus has authority over SICKNESS and PHYSICAL DISEASES (Mark 1:29-34)**

3<sup>rd</sup> – **Jesus has authority over SICKNESS and PHYSICAL DISEASES** – vv29-34

#### **[Slide-#3]**

After the synagogue – Jesus and some of the disciples went to Simon Peter's house  
Where Simon Peter's mother-in-law is sick in bed with a fever

And we see in v30 – **immediately** (one of Mark's favourite words) – they told Jesus about Simon Peter's mother-in-law

And v31 – Jesus healed her

Here we see Jesus' compassion

Even though the culture of the time – placed women as 2<sup>nd</sup> class citizens – **Jesus values everyone** – He's not interested in gender, status or wealth – everyone is welcome to come to Him!

Today, if someone had a cold/flu and they're in bed and taking antibiotics – even when they feel the antibiotics are starting to work - they are not going to jump out of bed and start a BBQ for their family and visitors.

But notice - Simon Peter's mother-in-law is able to get up and wait on her guest immediately. That's because...

**Jesus' healing is instant and complete.**

News of Jesus' authority over sickness spreads

V32 – by sunset – people have brought all the sick and demon-possessed people to Jesus

V33 – the whole town are at the door

V34 – Jesus heals them all

And notice Jesus tells the demons not to speak because they know who Jesus is!

Why does Jesus do that?

A few reasons:

- Jesus didn't want demons to reveal His identity prematurely. Jesus had a **specific timeline and a specific way** in which people were to come to



understand who He was—through His teaching, His miracles, His death, and resurrection, not through the testimony of demons.

- Jesus **didn't want testimony from evil sources!** Even if what the demons said was technically true (that Jesus is “*the Holy One of God*”), Jesus didn't accept truth from unclean, evil sources.
- Also, Jesus **didn't want any misunderstanding of who He was/is.** Many people expected the Messiah to be a political or military leader. Jesus had still to fully reveal and define what kind of Messiah He was—one who would suffer, serve, and save.

### Application

For us it means

We are living in a world full of physical and mental suffering, all caused by this world being fallen and broken.

We only have to look at our prayer list to see the reality of this.

Jesus has power and authority to **restore bodies and lives.**

We simply bring our physical needs and the needs of others to Jesus in prayer, believing He cares and He can heal.

We pray according to God's will – and we know God will either remove the problem – or give us His grace and strength to come through the problem

(pause)

#### 4. Jesus has authority over TIME and PRIORITIES (Mark 1:35-39)

4<sup>th</sup> – **Jesus has authority over TIME and PRIORITIES** – vv35-39

##### [Slide-#4]

Understandably after performing so many miraculous healings

Jesus needs some time out

Look at v35 – it's the early hours of the morning – it's still dark – Jesus goes to a solitary place to pray.

Why?

- To stay close to His Father – and commune with Him. Jesus, God's Son, lived in constant fellowship with His Father
- Jesus also needed time to rest and refocus on His ministry ahead. Having healed people and cast out demons; this had taken 'something' [power/energy] from Jesus, which needed to be replenished.
- And timeout gave Him space to prepare for what was next

When his disciples came looking for him (vv36-37)

Jesus' quiet time had replenished Him and He confirms what His priority is next...

He will go to nearby villages – to preach – and He says ***"That is why I have come"***

Jesus is modelling what His disciples will do – once He departs from this world – they will preach the Good News about Jesus – from town to town – in the same way!

##### Application

There's a few lessons for us from this:

- **Our spiritual health must come first.** Before doing anything else, **Jesus prioritized prayer**—early in the morning, alone, in a quiet place.

Ministry/Serving can be very draining. Without regular time with God, our spiritual well runs dry. This teaches us that we minister/serve best when we minister/serve from the fulness of a close relationship with God, rather than from exhaustion. **If we haven't already – it would be really good to schedule a quiet time with God each day!**

- **Busyness is not the same as faithfulness.** Jesus had huge demands on Him—crowds often sought Him out, people wanted healing, His fame was spreading. However, He did not let those 'people pressures' dictate His schedule. He withdrew to pray, even when people were looking for Him. **Faithfulness to God may sometimes mean saying no to people in order to say yes to God.**
- Regular prayers keep us focused on God's mission. Time with the Father helped Jesus refocus on His mission to preach the good news—not just meet people's demands. Our ministry/serving can easily drift into people-pleasing or just reacting to needs. Prayer helps us stay Christ-centred, mission-centered rather than being driven by people's needs.
- **If Jesus needed solitude to recharge spiritually, then how much more do we?**  
Time alone with God is not selfish; it is self-care, soul care and obedience. In our quiet times of prayer, we will receive wisdom, strength, perspective, guidance and peace.

- And once we are refreshed – **our priority must be the same as Jesus – to preach the Good News** – in **our own context**.

(pause)

## 5. Jesus has authority over SOCIAL and RELIGIOUS BARRIERS (Mark 1:40-45)

5<sup>th</sup> – **Jesus has authority over SOCIAL and RELIGIOUS BARRIERS** – v40-45

### [Slide-#5]

News of Jesus' authority over sickness continued to spread quickly – and in these verses – a leper comes on his knees to Jesus – v40 – begging “*if you are willing, you can make me clean*”`

Leprosy in Bible times was a terrible skin disease which affected the whole body and often led to losing fingers or toes. The disease was incurable by humans and many believed God had inflicted a curse of leprosy upon people for the sins they had committed. As a result, lepers were outcast and were not allowed to live in the community with their own people. Instead they lived in community with other lepers.

Jesus – v41 – once again – heals! He touches the man and says “*I am willing! Be clean!*”

From this we see a few things about Jesus:

- Jesus had no problem breaking social and religious barriers – to help people. His compassion trumped rules and conventions every day of the week. According to Jewish law (Leviticus 13–14), lepers were unclean and touching a leper was forbidden because it made a person, touching a leper, ceremonially unclean.

- Jesus showed a deep compassion and willingness to enter into human suffering – even if it costs Him.
- Jesus' healing brought complete physical healing.
- Jesus' healing also restored the leper's place in society again and allowed the man to worship properly

But there's a deeper point here about leprosy...

In the Bible - **Leprosy is a picture of sin**

Just like leprosy -

- Sin **corrupts** – it defiles the whole person
- Sin **isolates** – it separates people from God and their community
- Sin is **incurable by human means** – only Jesus can cleanse sin

### Application

For us then – what do we learn from Jesus healing the leper.

Leprosy points to **our need for spiritual cleansing from sin and restoration through God's mercy.**

How do we get that spiritual cleansing of our sins?

Simply by believing that Jesus died on a cruel cross for my sins – He took the punishment for my sin – so I could be forgiven. And Jesus rose again – to give me eternal life in Heaven.

We also need to be mindful that everyone has this disease of sin.

And so, everyone needs Jesus.

Jesus didn't write anyone off.

He cared for the outcast and the marginalized people

Surely, we must reach out and include those who feel excluded or lonely, showing Jesus' love and acceptance to them.

Our church needs to be an intensive care unit for those broken and lost from God – and need saving by Jesus.

(pause)

## 6. Jesus has authority to FORGIVE SINS (Mark 2:1-12)

6<sup>th</sup> - **Jesus has authority to FORGIVE SINS**

**[Slide-#6]**

Again – verse 1 of chapter 2 – the news about Jesus has spread quickly

A large crowd tracked him down to a house in Capernaum where Jesus was preaching – v2.

And we should be impressed by the **amazing faith of four friends of a paralyzed man who carry him to Jesus.**

They know Jesus is the only one who can cure their friend from his paralysis.

They are not put off by the fact that they can't get anywhere near the door of the house. Nothing is going to stop them from getting their friend to Jesus!

Not even a roof!

So – v4 – they dig a hole in the roof – and lower their friend down to Jesus!

And notice **Jesus doesn't initially give the paralyzed man what he wants** – which is working legs – **instead Jesus gives the paralyzed man what he needs** – and says ***“Son, your sins are forgiven!”***

This doesn't go down too well with the teachers of the law – they accuse Jesus of blasphemy because only God can forgive sins (v7)

They are right in saying only God can forgive sins

But they are wrong in saying Jesus is blaspheming

Because **they've missed the fact that Jesus is fully human AND fully God!**

Jesus does have **authority and power to forgive sins!**

And Jesus shows that the **spiritual healing of sins is more important than physical healing.**

However, the thinking of the culture in Jesus' day was that this man was paralyzed because of sin in his life or in his parents' life.

So – Jesus gives the teachers of the law a curly question in verse 9

***Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'?***

It's pretty easy to prove to everyone watching that the man has been healed of his paralysis – if he gets up, takes his mat and starts walking.

It's not so easy to prove the man's sins are forgiven – that's not something visible that the people watching, can see.

But Jesus proves the man's sins are forgiven by healing the man's paralysis.

In their thinking – if the man can now walk – then his sins must be forgiven too!

## Application

For us...

A few things to take from this

- Is our faith like the four friends – they were **prepared to do anything** to get their friend to Jesus
- They were not put off by any obstacles!
- Are there people we know - who need to come to Jesus?
- Have we hit a few obstacles – they've given some excuses not to come to Jesus – and we've given up?
- Perhaps we're praying for someone or something – and we've given up praying and given up waiting? The faith of these four friends showed they would NEVER give up on their friend.

Can we learn from that?

Not to give up praying for that miracle – and instead continue to have faith that God will answer in His own perfect timing!

## Conclusion/Challenge

Something to think about...

We've seen Jesus has power and authority – over teaching – over impure spirits – over sickness and physical diseases – over time and priorities – over social and religious barriers – and He has the authority to forgive sins.



### [Slide-Conclusion]

If Jesus has all that authority – there is nothing that is going on in our lives right now – that Jesus can't handle – **He has power and authority over every aspect of our lives.**

We need to bring **EVERYTHING** that's going on in our lives to Him

(pause)

### Challenge:

Let me finish with a challenge

### [Slide-Challenge]

After Jesus drove out the impure spirit from the man – and after Jesus healed the leper – news about Jesus spread quickly.

Why?

Because **people couldn't help but tell others what Jesus can do!**

I'm convicted that – this should be something – we should be doing.

We seem to be comfortable about talking about our family, our grandkids, our sports team, a favourite movie or TV show; our holidays and our favourite things that we do – but we get a bit embarrassed about talking about Jesus – why is that?

Perhaps because we care too much about what people might think? Rather than pleasing God?

There's one name that gets mentioned in a room – that changes the atmosphere of the whole room immediately.

That name is JESUS

His name will have some people quoting the Bible – His name will encourage some people – convict others – anger some – cause others to come and follow Jesus!

**If we mention Jesus' name – we will get a reaction!**

My challenge is - I'm daring us to mention Jesus' name this week – wherever we go!

Let's pray...

*Father God, thank you that Jesus has authority over all things.*

*Nothing is impossible for Him!*

*Help us to believe this and embrace it!*

*Help us this week to be bold and unashamedly mention Jesus in our conversation and share the truth that He has the power and authority to save people for Heaven.*

*In His precious name, we pray. Amen*