

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION - 2/17-18/15
UNRIVALED AUTHORITY: MARK 1:21-28



SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:21-28

BIG IDEA

Directly after Jesus calls the first disciples to follow him, he begins his ministry by gathering with the people of God to teach the Word of God. In Mark 1:21-28, Jesus reveals his unrivaled authority through the way he teaches as well as the way he casts a demon out of a man by simply speaking! Those who heard Jesus' teaching and saw his demon-exorcism were thunderstruck. They had never heard or seen anything like this.

We learn at least five things from this scene: **1)** Jesus made it a priority to regularly gather with the people of God as they received teaching from the Word of God. So should we. If it's important to Jesus, it should be important to us. **2)** Jesus' words had authority because He is God, and the people hearing were thunderstruck — so should we be every time we read or hear the Bible. **3)** Religion can't save you, free you, or change you. **4)** Jesus can save you, free you, and change you. There's no sin or enslavement that's a match for his grace. **5)** The One with unrivaled authority used it to sacrifice himself for sinners. "No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again" (John 10:18).

DISCUSSION

And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, "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." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. (Mark 1:23-26)

1. Imagine you were one of the people in that synagogue. What would you think and do?

(DISCUSSION CONTINUED AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ON FOLLOWING PAGE)

2. Was there anything from the sermon, big idea, or Mark 1:21-28 that **stood out** to you, **challenged** you, or **confused** you?

3. Which other occasions can you think of where Jesus authority is on display?

Jesus' words had authority because He is God, and the people hearing were thunderstruck — so should we be every time we read or hear the Bible.

4. Why should we respond the same when we read the Bible as the people did when they heard Jesus speak? Do you take the Bible seriously? Why or why not? ****taking the Bible seriously: regularly study what God says, believe what God promises, and obey what God commands.**

Religion can't save you, free you, or change you—but Jesus can.

5. Do you believe this is true? Why or why not? How would you explain this to someone who doesn't really "get" the gospel?

The One with unrivaled authority used it to sacrifice himself for sinners. "No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again" (John 10:18).

6. When you think on this great truth, how does can it make you confident in life and assured of Jesus' love for you?