

Mark 1:21-28

Authority Over Disease

1

Introduction

We live in a world that is filled with sickness, pain, suffering, and death. We need to remember that this is not the way things have always been. God (Jesus) created a perfect world where none of the ailments existed. Adam and Eve's sin started a cascade of destruction. Sickness, pain, and suffering are part of the consequences of sin and living in a fallen world. The ultimate end of all human life is death (Rom. 6:23). Jesus, however, is claiming to be the Divine King sent by the Father to redeem Creation back to Himself. There are two important concepts that we need to remember.

The first is **when Jesus heals diseases and deformities, he is giving evidence that He is the Creator and is able to fix that which is broken.** The Second concept is that disease is a consequence of sin. When Jesus heals, **He is declaring that He has the power over sin and it's consequences – even death!**

2

Mark 1:29-39

Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ But Simon's wife's mother lay sick with a fever, and they told Him about her at once. ³¹ So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her. And she served them.

³² At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. ³³ And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴ Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

³⁵ Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and those *who were* with Him searched for Him. ³⁷ When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You."

³⁸ But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth." ³⁹ And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.

3

Authority In Compassion

Mark 1:29

Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

This passage ties directly to the verses before. Jesus visited the synagogue in Capernaum where He taught and delivered a man from being possessed by an evil spirit. As they (Jesus and His disciples) leave the synagogue, they go to the house of Simon (Peter) and Andrew. It is still the Sabbath Day.

4

Authority In Compassion

Mark 1:30

But Simon's wife's mother lay sick with a fever, and they told Him about her at once.

The passage states that Peter was married and that his wife's mother was sick. This goes against some religious traditions. When Jesus entered the house, they told Him about her. Luke explains that she had a high fever (Luke 4:38). Luke's description along with that she did not get out of bed to greet the guests (an expectation of the culture), indicates that she had a serious illness.

Mark explains that they told Jesus about her, and Luke indicates that they made a request for Him to help. Having seen Jesus' other miracles, they showed a faith that Jesus was able to heal her.

5

Authority In Compassion

Mark 1:31

So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her. And she served them.

Jesus showed great compassion and tenderness. As Jesus walked this earth, He must have been deeply impacted by the effects of sin upon His creation and those living in it. Seeing the concern of His friends and hearing their request, Jesus takes her by the hand and lifts her up. Immediately the fever left her. Jesus' healing is always absolute.

A proper response to Jesus' healing, either physical or spiritual, should be an act of service and worship. It demonstrates an attitude of gratefulness.

6

Authority Over Brokenness

Mark 1:32-34

At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. ³³ And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴ Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

The Sabbath runs from sundown to sundown. The statement that the sun had set, indicates that the Sabbath day with its requirements had ended. The townspeople having seen Jesus' power in the Synagogue and hearing his reputation "**brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed.**"

The whole city was gathered at the door of the house. Though they recognized Jesus' authority over sickness and the forces of evil, it is unclear if they recognized His authority over their own lives.

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The term "**brought**" is an imperfect tense and carries the idea that they just kept bringing people to Jesus. The term that "**He healed many**" does not mean that some were not healed, but pointing to the amount of people. Matthew 8:26 states that He healed them all.

Mark is painting a picture of Jesus as a true Servant Leader. Though He is King of all things, He tirelessly serves the needs of His creation. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He does not weary of doing good for His people.

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Last week we saw that the demonic forces know who Jesus is.

They testified that Jesus was the “Holy One of God.” Jesus does not need the testimony of evil spirits to declare who He is and what He came to do. Jesus commanded for these demons should not speak. The Pharisees would later claim that Jesus cast out demons because He was the leader of the demons. To allow these demons to speak would give credence to their accusations.

9

Authority of Communion

Mark 1:35

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

Jesus’ ministry with the people must have taken Him deep into the night. Humanly it must have taken a toll on Him emotionally and physically. The text indicates that He did sleep some, but He needed more than what sleep could provide. He needed to communion with the Father. He got up and went to a solitary place where He could pray.

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Jesus' prayer life was more than just a model for His disciples to follow.

It was an essential part of His obedience and submission. In the incarnation, the Jesus set aside the independent use of His divine attributes (Phil. 2:6–7). He humbled Himself in becoming human, relying fully on the plan of the Father and the power of the Spirit. That is why He repeatedly explained that He only did what the Father told Him to do, and that even His miracles were performed through the power of the Holy Spirit. At every point, He was fully dependent on the Father and the Spirit. He relied on them completely for the means to fulfill His mission.

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We also must learn to become totally dependent upon God's leading and His power to accomplish. Our human nature focuses on the things of this world. It is common for people to turn to physical things to deal with the pressures of life like food, alcohol, drugs, or other addictions.

Communion with the Father is the most satisfying experience available here on earth. It is a touch of heaven and what we will one day experience in its fullness. It is to experience His love, comfort, direction, and strength to face life here on earth.

12

Authority at Work

Mark 1:36-39

And Simon and those *who were* with Him searched for Him. ³⁷ When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." ³⁸ But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth." ³⁹ And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.

When the disciples awoke, they discovered that Jesus was no longer with them. It appears that the crowds of Capernaum had returned looking for Jesus and the disciples went out and found Him. The disciples were focused on the pressure of the immediate. In their view, Jesus needed to return and meet the needs of this new crowd of people. They were focused on success measured by numbers, popularity, and accomplishments.

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Jesus saw success differently than the disciples. True success was to accomplish His mission preach the "Good News of the Kingdom" and dying on the cross so man could have a restored relationship with Him. Though Jesus is the focal point of human history, He did not seek to draw attention or a following to Himself but rather directed people to the Father and their relationship with Him!

14

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Jesus knew that there would always be crowds. There would always be sick and those in need of spiritual deliverance. The people in Capernaum had heard Jesus’ teaching and saw His power over the consequences of sin. It appears that the crowds did not come to have a relationship with Jesus but were focused on His ability to meet their temporal needs.

Like the crowds of Jesus’ day, the majority of people who contact the church are not looking for salvation, and definitely are not looking for a relationship with Him. They see church as a place to get help to meet their temporal needs – food, shelter, and hopefully money.

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Jesus knew that there were many others who needed to hear the gospel and see the power of God. I am sure the disciples were surprised when He did not return to the local crowds but announced that they were going to the next town. Jesus’ purpose for coming into this world was to preach and teach the Truth of one’s relationship with God. He laid a foundation of understanding so when He removed the wall of sin that separated God and man, people might be able to respond in faith.

16

So What ...

Why are you here on earth? What is your purpose and mission in life? These are questions that philosophy and psychology attempt to ask, yet seem to always come up with the wrong answers.

Let me encourage you. You are important to God. You are still alive, so you still have a purpose. To find your purpose, you must spend time with God on a daily basis. Seek out what He is calling you to do and then devise a plan to accomplish it.

Remember, you are not the focus. It is not about you, but directing others to Jesus. It is all about Him!