

Who Do You Say I Am? – Mark Scene 5

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Mark 1:21-45

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Reflection & Discussion Questions

Jesus had authority that was different than the scholars

Read and discuss Mark 1:21-27 (Nicolas Zola translation)

So they travel to Capernaum. And as soon as it was Sabbath, he entered the synagogue and began to teach. And they were stunned by his teaching, for he was teaching them like someone with authority, and not like the scholars. And suddenly there was a man with an unclean spirit in their synagogue and he cried out, "What do you have to do with us, Jesus the Nazarene? Did you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God!" But Jesus reprimanded him, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, after convulsing him and uttering a loud cry, came out of him. And everyone was so astounded that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He even commands the unclean spirits and they obey him!"

*What is this passage saying to you?

*What do you think of when you hear the words 'someone with authority'?

*How does original authority differ from derived authority?

The book of Mark carries a unique theme of 'messianic secrecy'

These passages carry the first occurrence in where Jesus does not allow various groups to speak of his true identity.

*Is this something you had noticed in Mark before? Why do you think Jesus told people not to tell of their encounters with him?

*What baggage or dangers could come along with being recognized as the Messiah?

Read and discuss Mark 1:40-42 (Nicolas Zola translation)

Well, a man with a skin disease comes to him, imploring him, "Sir, if you are willing, you can cleanse me." And filled with compassion, he stretched out his hand and touched him, and says to him, "I am willing. Be cleansed." And immediately the skin disease left him, and he was cleansed.

*What is this passage saying to you?

*Why do you think Jesus allowed himself to be interrupted so often to bring physical healing?

*What opportunities do you have to reach out and touch those who are considered 'unclean' by our society?

Jesus told us he came to bring the eternal reign of God, but people seem to only be interested in the temporary relief

Some could reduce Jesus' ministry to one of glorious miracles.

*In what ways do we sometimes focus on the glorious parts of Jesus (his identity, mission or ministry) to the neglect of his suffering and the hardships of discipleship?

When you follow Jesus interruptions become avenues

Mark shows us a Jesus powerful enough to use everything and anything to accomplish why he went out.

*How do the allowed interruptions of Jesus show us who he wants to be in our lives?

*How had Jesus interrupted you recently? What ways are you responding to the Interrupter?