

# WHO DO YOU SAY HE IS?



**Who do you say He is?**

**Mark 1:21-31**

The word of the day: Authority

- Is authority a naughty word?
- It's not authority we have a problem with, it's the person in authority that is the problem.
- We can trust God's GOOD authority because of what we see in Mark 1:21-31.
  - Jesus is the authority on truth.
  - Jesus is the authority in the spiritual realm.
  - Jesus has authority over the physical world.

## 1. Jesus is the authority on truth

- **Mark 1:21** And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. **22** And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.
- The people of the synagogue recognized the authority of Jesus, but they did not accept His authority in their lives.
- "Jesus receives his authority directly from the Father. The teachers of the law derive their authority from Torah, but Jesus appeals to a superior authority resident in himself" (David Garland, *A Theology of Mark's Gospel*, 270).

- God is the author of truth so we should trust His Word.
- Following Jesus means accepting His Truth.

## 2. Jesus is the authority in the spiritual realm

- **Mark 1:23** And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, **24** “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.” **25** But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” **26** And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. **27** And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” **28** And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.
- The demons knew the authority of Jesus, but they did not submit to His authority.
  - “For Mark, the demonic realm represents a real power that invades the human realm. It seeks to take human minds and lives captive and to destroy them” (David Garland, *A Theology of Mark’s Gospel*, 266).
- When Jesus is in your life, you can trust that He will fight for you, and He always wins!

## 3. Jesus has authority over the physical world

- **Mark 1:29** And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. **30** Now Simon’s mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. **31** And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.
- Peter’s mother-in-law experienced the power of Jesus and she responded by serving Him
- The immediate and full recovery of Simon’s mother-in-law with no aftereffects is confirmed when she takes over her duties as hostess and “waits on them” (1:31; lit., “she was serving them”). She serves Jesus as the angels served him in recognition of his authority (1:13). David Garland, *A Theology of Mark’s Gospel*, 108
- When Jesus works in your life, you should respond with thanksgiving and service.

Will you recognize and submit to the authority of Jesus?

- You need to come to a place where you realize Jesus is God and that He is sovereign
  - “Whereas omnipotence tells us how much and which powers God has Sovereignty clarifies the extent to which God uses those powers” (John Frame, *No One Like Him*).

- Seeing who Jesus is and knowing who Jesus is should lead you to surrender to who He is and experience His power in your life.
- When you welcome Jesus into your life, you must accept His GOOD Authority over all aspects of your life