

DIVE DEEPER

READ Mark 1:21-28 (NIV)

21 They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. 22 The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. 23 Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, 24 “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!”

25 “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” 26 The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

27 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.” 28 News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

THE FUN WORDS:

› (v. 21) **The Synagogue** - Unlike the temple in Jerusalem where animal sacrifice was practiced by priests, Jewish synagogues were “assembly halls” or auditoriums where the Torah was read and expounded. The “ruler of the synagogue,” was a position that included the responsibilities of librarian, worship committee, custodian, and perhaps schoolteacher. The ruler of the synagogue did not preach or expound the Torah, the laity and scribes did.

› (v. 22) **The Scribes**- They were, first of all, experts in the Torah, who issued binding decisions on its interpretation. With the growth of the synagogue, scribes became, secondly, teachers of the Torah, whose reputation was honored by the title “rabbi,” meaning “my great one.” Finally, scribes were civil lawyers. Commoners deferred to scribes as they walked through the streets. The first seats in the synagogues were reserved for scribes, and people rose to their feet when they entered a room.

› (v. 22) **The people were amazed**- (ἐξεπλησσοντο [exēplēssonto]). Meaning to strike a person out of his senses by some strong feeling, such as fear, wonder, or even joy. The difference between Jesus’ teaching and the scribes was that the scribes never gave an independent opinion. They always quoted other experts such as “rabbi such and such” to back up their interpretations of the law. Jesus did not quote any source. He was the ultimate authority in and of himself. Jesus taught with authority that came straight from God.

¿ Has God ever “slapped you out of your senses” with a new understanding of who He is or what he wants?

YES • NO • MAYBE

1. Most of the people sitting around me don’t really pay that much attention to the sermons at church worship.
2. One safe way of knowing truth is to see what the majority of commentaries say about it.
3. When God brings truth into your heart, it feels like you’ve been slapped.
4. Satan and his demons are faithful church attendees.
5. God has some new truths to present to us today.



DIVE DEEPER (CONTINUED...)

› (v. 24) **What do you want with us?** - (τι ἡμῖν καὶ σοὶ [ti hēmin kai soi?]). “What is between us?/What did we ever do to you?” The demon refers to “Jesus of Nazareth” as “the Holy One of God.” That may reflect the belief that speaking the name of a spiritual foe granted one mastery over it. We wonder how many synagogue services that man had attended without revealing that he was demonized. It took the presence of the Son of God to expose the demon

¿ How is it possible for evil influences to control faithful church attendees? What is the way of escape for those people today?

› (v. 25) **Be quiet!** - (φίμωθητι [phimōthēti]). It is a more vigorous word meaning, “Be muzzled” like an ox. The people expected Jesus to use an incantation to drive the evil spirit away. Instead, he just says, “Be muzzled, and come out!”

¿ What does this action--and very little words--say about Jesus?

› (v. 27) **A new teaching** - (διδασχὴ καινὴ [didachē kainē]). One surprise had followed another this day. The teaching was fresh (καινὴ [kainē]) and original. That was a novelty in that synagogue where only locked and stilted rabbinical rules had been, up to now, droned on and on. The people were amazed once again. In fact, they said, What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! They had never experienced such power and authority. Jesus’ authoritative teaching was backed up by authoritative action.

¿ How does God follow up his teaching with action? And does He always do it this way?

¿ What does this story teach us about the character of God?

NOTES

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MY PRAYER

1. How can I experience the fresh new teachings of God today?
2. In what ways do we provide a comfortable place for negative spirits in our church?
3. What do I understand more clearly about God’s character now?