



4/20/26

*Today's passage is in the first chapter of the Gospel of Mark. I kind of feel like Mark must have been a huge caffeine drinker. His gospel account just races through the story of Jesus. Mark hits the ground running from the first verse and never stops. It's the shortest of the 4 gospels. But even though it's short and to the point, the message of Jesus is still very clear. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. He is worthy of our praise. As we sang in church on Sunday, He IS the Great I AM. Amen!!!*

*Blessings,  
Jonna*

*Mark 1:21-28*

*This passage occurred early in Jesus' ministry. Jesus had called some of the disciples who were now following Him wherever He went. They must have known there was something really different about Jesus, but now they were going to see signs of His incredible authority.*

*Why does His authority matter? His authority means that His love has more meaning. His authority means that His power can't be outdone. His authority means my security. Even demonic forces can't take me down... not because of MY authority or power, but because of His. No time or day or circumstance or power can take a stand against Jesus and win.*

*It was the Sabbath. Jesus and the disciples went to the synagogue in Capernaum, a very small town on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus got up and taught in the synagogue and the people were in shock. Why? Jesus taught with authority. The scribes who normally taught never taught with that kind of authority. Why? I wonder if it's because so many of them were teaching the word without an understanding of ITS authority. Maybe they were just teaching to impart information, but not to ask God for transformation.*

*Interesting... when Jesus taught with authority, a man with an unclean spirit (a demon possessed man) immediately entered the synagogue and started crying out to Jesus. I wonder if he came to Jesus and not to the scribes because he recognized His authority and knew there*

*was no need to come to the scribes. They were no threat to him.*

*The demon possessed man 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." Wow. The demons KNOW who Jesus is, and yet they refuse to worship Him. They admit they do evil acts. They're proud of it. They believe that Jesus IS the Most High God. But they refuse to confess Him as their Lord. They are the obvious illustration of how just admitting and believing isn't enough for salvation... but I have to confess Jesus as Lord.*

*How sad that the demons knew who Jesus was, but the scribes who were supposed to know His word and the prophecies of His coming more than anyone else did not recognize Him. The scribes prove to me that just having knowledge of the word does not mean I'm following the Lord. It isn't until I take the word in for my transformation and not just for information, that I will allow God's word to do the work in me that He intends for it to do.*

*When the demon spoke of who Jesus is through the voice of the man he possessed, Jesus said, "Be silent, and come out of him!" Jesus spoke the word with authority. And now Jesus cast out a demon with authority. He didn't have to call on any higher power to cast out the demon. He spoke by His own authority. How do I know that Jesus had the authority to cast the demon out? As soon as He told it to leave the man's body, it convulsed the man and cried out with a loud voice, and then came out.*

*The people in that synagogue were amazed. They had already been amazed by the authority in His teaching, and now they saw the power of His authority, that even the unclean spirits have to obey Him. This was so amazing to the people that word about Jesus began to spread throughout the surrounding area. They didn't have social media or cell phones. This all spread by word of mouth. Jesus was and is a big deal. Let me never ignore Him or take Him for granted.*

*So... I know that left to my own strength to handle things, I could not fight against the power of the demons. I do not have and never will have the authority of Jesus. I don't have the power or authority that angels and demons have. If I don't have Jesus, I am hopeless. But praise God, His authority is my security. The demons will never bow to me, but they will always have to bow to my Savior. O Lord, help me to stay so close to You, and to celebrate that because I belong to You, no demon will ever be able to take me down. Your authority is my security. Thank You for protecting me.*