



## The Sovereignty of the King

### Key idea:

In a single day, Jesus displays His Sovereignty as He teaches with authority, exercises total control over demons, and heals sick people completely.

### Key text:

Mark 1:21–34

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup> The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. <sup>23</sup> Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, <sup>24</sup> “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!” <sup>25</sup> “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” <sup>26</sup> The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. <sup>27</sup> 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 evil spirits and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup> News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee. <sup>29</sup> As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. <sup>30</sup> Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. <sup>31</sup> So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. <sup>32</sup> That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> The whole town gathered at the door, <sup>34</sup> and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

### Key points:

1. This passage uses the events of a single day to give an overview of Jesus’ ministry in Capernaum and the surrounding regions.
2. Jesus’ life rhythm included gathering with God’s people for worship each Sabbath day.
3. Jesus taught the Scripture authoritatively, which amazed the people because it was very different from what they were accustomed to hearing from the scribes/teachers of the law.

4. The Presence and authoritative teaching of Jesus provoked demons to react and attempt to reveal His identity, but He exercised total control over them, commanding them to be silent and to leave the people they were tormenting.
5. Jesus also healed Peter's mother-in-law and many others from their illnesses, displaying total authority over sickness.

### **Questions for discussion/application:**

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Have I ever considered the fact that Jesus attended worship with God's people each Sabbath? What does this teach me about the necessity of gathering with a local church regularly for worship as an essential part of discipleship?
3. The synagogues were places of constant conflict between Jesus and demons and also the religious authorities who opposed Him. Why would He continue to attend synagogue? What does this teach me as a disciple regarding my involvement with God's people, even when they fall far short of biblical commands for believers?
4. When I think of the ministry of Jesus, what is the first thing that comes to my mind? Is it miracles? Healings? Driving out demons? Teaching? Why does Mark give the priority to Jesus' teaching over these other facets by placing it first, and also by Jesus' own words (see Mark 1:38). Why is the teaching of Jesus more central to His work than all of these other aspects?
5. Am I surprised to read about people being demonized? What does this mean? Do I think this still happens today? Why did it happen so often in Jesus' ministry?
6. Why does Mark include the individual healing of Peter's mother-in-law, even when he is about to recount that Jesus healed many people? What might I learn from this?
7. Why does Mark begin this more public phase of Jesus' ministry with this account of authoritative teaching, healing, and command over demons?
8. Is there an area where I need to come to Jesus for His touch? Take time right now to take this need to Him in prayer.
9. Who will I call or see to invite to church this week?