

11.13.11/ Mark 1:21-22**Jesus' Authority****Read Mark 1:21-22**

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.

Summarize the Passage

Jesus went into the synagogue (which is like a church building, where the Jewish people would gather to pray, worship and learn Scripture) and began to teach the people. As we've learned before, the religious leaders had a problem with Jesus because He taught differently than they did. He didn't have the credentials or qualifications they had, yet MANY people followed Him. How could this be? He was just a carpenter from Nazareth! But the people were amazed because He taught with authority, not like the regular teachers.

Discussion

Who do you know in your life who has authority? (The term may need to be explained: it is the power to act, decide, command and judge.) If someone is in authority over us, that usually means we listen to and obey them. Who are some people in your life who have authority? *Your parents have authority over you. When your mom or dad tells you to do something, you should obey. Your teachers have authority over you. Policemen have authority over many people.* There are many people in the world who have authority, but in today's passage we'll see that Jesus has the ULTIMATE authority, over heaven and earth.

Questions

1. As we've learned from other lessons from the Bible, Jesus could heal the sick and command evil because He has ultimate authority. Knowing what you do about authority, what do you think ULTIMATE authority means? *It means that NO ONE on earth has authority over Jesus. And it's not just humans that are under His authority.* Have you ever heard the story about when Jesus made the ocean nice and calm when there were a lot of big waves in it? *He has authority over all of creation! Over you and me, over all the animals, and even the mountains and oceans. He is King over all!*
2. After Jesus was crucified and buried in the tomb, what happened three days later? *He rose to life again!* What does this tell us about God's power and authority over life and death? *We know God gave us life. He is the Creator and is not limited by anything. But God showed that He has authority EVEN OVER DEATH by raising Jesus from the dead and conquering sin! Clearly, nothing is out of His control.*
3. Jesus has authority over our lives, and all of creation, because He is God. Knowing who Jesus is and that He has the ultimate authority, how should our lives respond to that? *Just as we obey our parents when they give us direction, we should obey the commands of God. He loves us so perfectly, and because of that, we can trust that His ways will bring us closer to Him.*

Reflection/Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for having authority over me, my family and all of creation. Thank you for having authority even over death, and for the resurrection of your son, Jesus. Please help us to respond in obedience to the things You have called us to do. We pray for our friends and family who may think they have the authority over their own lives. We pray that they would turn to trust You instead and rest in Your authority. We love you! Amen.

If you still have questions about what it means that Jesus has all authority, make sure to ask your parents.
