**The Gospel of Mark Sermon #2**

Theme of Mark:

Jesus: Messiah and Son of God: suffering servant and savior of mankind.

Theme verse: Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

**The Galilean Ministry Mark 1:14-3:12 The Kingdom of God is here.**

Mark 1:21-34, 40-45 The power and authority of Jesus over both spiritual and physical illness.

1:21-24 Note the amazement (v. 22, v. 27) They were astounded 2:12

Jesus is astounding.

Q: Are you amazed by Jesus. He is truly amazing.

and the authority (v. 22)

v. 23 Even the demons acknowledge the authority of Christ.

Q: Do you acknowledge the authority of God in your life?

And notice also the irony (v. 24) the demons are the first to acknowledge that Jesus is the Messiah.

v. 25 Jesus tells a demon to be quiet and the demon obeys.

v. 43 Jesus tells the man healed of leprosy to go and show himself to the priest and he disobeys.

The point: Hey, even the demons obey, so why don’t you obey.

v. 28 quickly v. 29 immediately. Jesus is about his mission. He is urgent.

v. 21-28 Jesus’ authority over the spirit world

v. 29-34 Jesus authority over the physical world.

Q: Which is more significant/important to you?

v. 35-39 Jesus may be a powerful man of action with great authority, but even he needed to pray.

Q: Do you feel that you need to pray? Who needs to pray more, you or Jesus?

v. 38 Why did Jesus come? To preach. What about you? Have you been preaching the good news to your friends? (note: this is not the only reason he came, Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life—a ransom for many.” Luke 19:10 to seek and save the lost.)

v. 40-45 Jesus heals the unclean.

a. Jesus touches the unclean.

b. Jesus heals the unclean.

We were unclean. Romans 5:8 But God proves his love for us in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us.

Will you hang out with the “unclean?”

Judaism expected Jesus to be made unclean by touching the leper. Instead, Jesus made the leper clean.

We are involved in God doing that as well.

Gal 6:1 Brothers, if someone is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual should restore such a person with a gentle spirit, watching out for yourselves so you won’t be tempted also.

With that caution, we are to “touch” the lepers around us.

Mark 2:1-12 Jesus’ authority. Q: How much authority does Jesus have? He can even forgive sins!!!

Mark 2:1 This thing is cranking. Things are happening fast. There is already such a crowd that people cannot even get into the house. If we are truly a Jesus ministry people will be astounded, things will be cranking and people will be wanting to break into church (luckily, they will not have to)

v. 4 Are you seeking after God as these men were?

By the way, which is easier? (v. 9) I have always wondered….

Q: Which is more important to you? To be healed physically or spiritually by Jesus?

2:12 The people were amazed.

Q: Are you amazed by Jesus? We tend to lose our amazement over time.

Mark 2:13-17 Back to the theme of the call to discipleship. The calling of Matthew.

The point: Your past does not matter. Aren’t you glad your past does not matter? Jesus is turning things upside down. All that matters is your answer to this question: Will you answer the call to “come, follow me.”

2:18-22 Jesus: Now that I am here, everything is new. I am not improving things. I am starting from scratch. God is not trying to reform our old self. He is trying to replace our old self with a completely new self.

Q: Are you trying to make adjustments to your life?

You need to get off the old train and get on a completely different train. Get on board.

Mark 2:23-28 How much authority does Jesus have? “The Son of Man is Lord, even of the Sabbath.” He has authority, even over the Sabbath. This is blow-away for a Jew.

v. 24 Here the unlawfulness is probably not even correct (whereas in 1:40-45 Jesus in fact broke the law). Harvesting was not allowed, of course, but picking a single apple (or in this case a few grains of wheat on the spot) was not working. Jesus upends both aspects of the Law (leprosy) and the religious tradition (in this case).

Whenever he overturns either law or tradition, it is toward the result of helping people—not rebelliousness. Similarly, we as a church have some traditions/rules which we should perhaps at times overturn, but only because it will produce a positive good for someone.

v. 28 I am the Lord of the Sabbath! Imagine the people’s jaws dropping to the floor. They don’t even know what to day. They are beyond amazed.

Here we see Jesus’ authority, his astoundingness

Summary;

Jesus is astounding

Jesus has all authority

Jesus has power over both the spiritual and the physical world

Yet, despite all this, Jesus has great compassion.

Jesus wants to make everything new. Let’s get on board that train.

 Mark 4 Parables both conceal and reveal. (Mark 4:11)