

Mark 1:21-34 (ESV)

²¹ And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²² And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴ “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.” ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸ And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

²⁹ And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon’s mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. ³¹ And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³² That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴ And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

1. Jesus entered the synagogue and taught in a way that left those who heard astonished. What was so different about Jesus’ teaching?
2. How else does Mark say that Jesus demonstrated his authority (verses 23-27)?
3. What does the unclean spirit’s recognition of Jesus as “the Holy One of God” reveal about Jesus and the spiritual realm?

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4. Why does Jesus command the spirit to be silent (verse 25)?
 5. Why did the disciples tell Jesus about Simon Peter's mother in law's fever (verse 30)? What does Jesus' immediate healing of her show about His character and power?
 6. What did she do after being healed (verse 31)? How does her actions demonstrate a transformed life?
 7. How does this passage challenge or affirm your understanding of Jesus' identity and mission?