

Discussion & Reflection Questions

Epiphany 4B - 28th of January 2024

Reading: Mark 1.21-28

²¹ They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²² They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴ and he 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.' ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' ²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. What do you think teaching with authority means?
2. This was the first recorded ministry of Jesus. What is the significance that Mark records teaching and an exorcism as Jesus first act of ministry & mission?
3. What is your understanding of or experience of deliverance ministry or exorcism?
4. What is the impact of evil in the world?
5. Do you think people outside the church have an understanding of evil?
6. What are the realities that possess me that I need to pray for Jesus' power & authority to cast out?
7. What does it look like for Jesus to deliver us in the ordinary parts of our lives?

Prayer

God of compassion, you have shown us in Christ that your love is never ending: enable us both to love you with all our heart and to love one another as Christ loved us. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.