

### 3. Jesus Healed Many People in Capernaum

In our last topic, we saw that we want to show our physical and spiritual children what it means to let go of the things of this world and make it their priority to use their lives to serve Christ. In our topic today, we will see that Jesus went with Peter and Andrew to their home and that Jesus then used their home as a place to minister to many people in the city of Capernaum.

Mark 1:21-22 says, “Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.” These verses make it clear that the teaching of Jesus was very different from the teaching of the scribes. The teaching of the scribes involved quoting what earlier Rabbis had said about the Old Testament. By this form of teaching, the scribes were just passing on the opinions of others. In contrast, we see that Jesus taught as One having authority. In Matthew 28:18, Jesus said, “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.’” Jesus could teach as One having authority because He has that authority. Jesus went on to say, in Matthew 28:19-20, “‘Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.” Here, we see that Jesus commanded us to make disciples by teaching all who come to Him for salvation how to obey all that Jesus commanded.

Christ also promised that the Holy Spirit would be our teacher. John 14:26 says, “‘But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.’” The New Testament writers wrote down all of the things that Christ taught that the Father wanted to be taught to each of us who become Christians. Then, 1 Corinthians 2:13 says, “These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.” We are not to be like the scribes and teach our own opinions or the opinions of others. Instead, we are to pray for spiritual understanding so that we can teach and answer questions by sharing the Word of God and explaining it within its context. Psalm 119:18 says, “Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.” The Holy Spirit is the One who opens our spiritual eyes.

While Jesus was in the synagogue, Mark 1:23-28 says, “Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, saying, ‘Let *us* alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!’ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, ‘Be quiet, and come out of him!’ And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, ‘What is this? What new doctrine *is* this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.’ And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee.” The word translated “unclean” means “*not cleansed or foul*”, and in the Gospels, was always used to speak of demons.

The demons in this man were forced to recognize that Jesus is the Holy One of God, and so their fear was that they would be sent to immediate judgment. Jesus then showed that He has all

authority over all things including demons. Jesus just spoke to the demon and said, “Be quiet, and come out of him!” The demon had to obey and made one last effort to destroy the man as he came out of him. We do not need to fear demons, because 1 John 4:4 promises us, “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” Demons cannot come into us if we are true Christians, because we have the Holy Spirit living within us.

The people in the synagogue were amazed as they heard what Jesus said and saw what happened in the life of the man as the demon came out of him. The people in the synagogue that day talked among themselves and said, “‘What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.’” (Mark 1:27) The people realized that they had seen something very amazing that day. As a result, they could not keep quiet about what they had heard and seen. People talked about what had happened everywhere they went. This caused the fame of Jesus to spread throughout the entire region of Galilee.

Mark 1:29-31 goes on to say, “Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. But Simon’s wife’s mother lay sick with a fever, and they told Him about her at once. So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her. And she served them.” We see in these verses that when Jesus left the synagogue, He and His disciples went to the house of Peter and Andrew. The family immediately told Jesus that the mother of the wife of Peter was sick with a fever. In fact, Luke 4:38-39 says, “Now He arose from the synagogue and entered Simon’s house. But Simon’s wife’s mother was sick with a high fever, and they made request of Him concerning her. So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them.” Here, we see that the fever was a high fever.

Jesus just walked over to the mother-in-law of Peter and rebuked the fever, and then, took her by the hand and lifted her up. Usually, when a person has a high fever, the person is very weak for several hours even after the fever has departed from that person. In contrast, we see that in addition to healing her of the fever that Jesus also restored her strength. That is shown by the fact that she immediately began to serve Jesus and His disciples. This is a reminder that when Jesus healed, the healing was complete.

We see that everyone in Capernaum, and the surrounding area, heard about the fact that Jesus had cast the demon out of the man in the synagogue. As a result, we see that many people in Capernaum came to the house of Peter and Andrew that evening. Mark 1:32-34 says, “At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.” The reason why the people waited until after the sun had set was due to the fact that this miracle had happened on the Sabbath day. The Jews measured their days from sundown to sundown. This meant that the Sabbath began at sundown on Friday, and ended at sundown on Saturday. So, the people came after sundown.

We see that the whole city gathered together in and around the house of Peter and Andrew. The people had been astonished at the teaching of Jesus and then amazed when Jesus cast out the demon. The word translated “astonished” means “*to be astonished or amazed*” while the word translated “amazed” means “*to be frightened or amazed.*” This second word is used in Acts 9:6, where we read, “So he, trembling and astonished, said, ‘Lord, what do You want me to do?’ Then the Lord said to him, ‘Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.’” In this verse, we see that there was a mixture of fear and amazement. That is probably what had happened in the synagogue that day as well as Jesus both taught and cast out the demon.

The people had heard about the healing of the mother-in-law of Peter, and so they brought all those who were sick. Many had either heard or seen Jesus cast out the demon in the synagogue, so they also brought to Jesus all those who were demon-possessed. We read that Jesus healed many with various diseases. The word translated “diseases” can be translated either “sickness” or “disease.” Matthew 4:23-24 says, “And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.” In these two verses, the word is translated “sickness” in verse 23 and “disease” in verse 24.

We also see that Jesus cast out many demons. The word translated “demons” means “*spirits that are inferior to God.*” Revelation 12:3-4 says, “And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.” In the book of Revelation, we see that Satan is called the dragon thirteen times. In verse four, we see that the tail of Satan drew one-third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. This refers to the angels that followed Satan when he rebelled against God. As a result, these became known as fallen angels, evil spirits or demons. In Mark, we see that Jesus has all power over demons. He has the power to cast them out. They were also forced to obey Jesus when He commanded them not to speak.

We learn some key lessons in these verses. We see that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to answer questions by praying and asking the Lord for guidance and then answering those questions from the Word of God instead of from their own opinions. We also see that Jesus is the One who has the power and authority to cast out demons, so we need to help our children learn to pray that Christ will defeat the power of Satan. May the Lord richly bless you as you show your children how to answer questions Biblically and depend on Christ to defeat Satan.