

Message

Sunday, 28 January 2024

"JESUS THE WORD IS THE ULTIMATE WISDOM"

Pastor Hans Peethala

A young lady visited a computer dating service and requested, "I'm looking for a spouse. Can you please help me to find a suitable one?"

The matchmaker said, "What exactly are you looking for?"

"Well, let me see. Needs to be good looking, polite, humorous, sporty, knowledgeable, good at singing and dancing. Willing to accompany me the whole day at home during my leisure hour if I don't go out. Be able to tell me interesting stories when I need a companion for conversation and be silent when I want to rest."

The matchmaker entered the information into the computer and, in a matter of moments, handed the results to the woman. **The results read, "Buy a television".**

Dear Friends! Today we depend so much on Dr. google to get help or to clear our doubts. Dr. Google has become the ultimate knowledge. Often, we assume we know everything because our best mate google is always there to inform us.

Paul clearly reminds the church that we do possess knowledge of different things in life **but often knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.**

Gone are those days when people looked up to God's word. In the Old Testament we always hear the kings go to the priests for godly direction and to know this wisdom comes from God. But today the world relies on Father Google. I have seen whenever I use my knowledge to solve something I puff up but whenever I'm led by the Holy Spirit, I experience God's wisdom speak through love.

"THEME: JESUS THE WORD IS THE ULTIMATE WISDOM

Let's look into the Gospel reading from Mark 1:21-29 to see how Jesus gives us the wisdom.

Paul makes it very clear to us, there is only one supreme authority over all the earth. There is only "One Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist."

Even the Old Testament scriptures testify to this truth that God will send a prophet who will speak with all authority.

Deut 18:18-20 "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command.

Two things are very clear the wisdom from God's WORD does. It Astounds and Amazes us. The second is Jesus WORD has the ultimate Authority.

It is somewhat awkward to refer to an exorcism as "a new teaching" (v. 27), but this very awkwardness shows the intention of linking Jesus' power in both word and deed as evidence of his amazing authority. **Jesus the word always teaches us something new.**

Every time we hear the WORD, what is something new Jesus is teaching you.

Now Mark is in a hurry to let his hearers know what's happening. Another word that is found at the beginning (v. 21) and the end (v. 28) and in the middle (v. 23) is "**Euthus**" = "**immediately**". This adverb occurs 11 times in Mark (vv. 10, 12, 18, 20, 21, 23, 28, 29, 30, 42, 43). **Events are happening quickly. One immediately following another. This is how the divine wisdom works through the Holy Spirit.**

Look at how the year is passing by. One event immediately after the other. Do we have time to listen to what God is telling us?

Another literary technique used by Mark in some of these verses is the historical present. **This is when a writer uses the present tense to talk about a past event.** The effect of this is to bring the hearer into the story. This is used at the beginning and the end of our text. Literally, v. 21 reads: "They go into Capernaum." V.27: "...they are discussing with each other saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He is commanding the unclean spirits, and they are obeying him."

The word of God continues to speak to us in our present! They kept on asking!

What is God asking of you today?

If you note carefully there is also a shift from plural to singular. -- **They go into Capernaum.** However, the subject of the next verb is singular: **"He, entering into the synagogue, was teaching."**

NO matter where we go, there is only ONE VOICE entering into our hearts and teaching us the TRUTH.

The Holy Spirit always give us the mind of Chris to have the right Wisdom. The more tuned we are with the Holy Spirit we start to listen to how devil interrupts the WORD OF GOD.

In a bit of a contrast to Jesus "entering into the synagogue" (v. 21); we have "immediately (or suddenly) a person was in their synagogue with an unclean spirit" (v. 23). It almost sounds like he just appeared there. Was he part of the crowd listening to Jesus' teaching who suddenly stood up and cried out? Or Did he come in off the street?

Note carefully, **the "holy one of God" on the holy day (sabbath) in the holy place (synagogue) meets an "unclean spirit."**

What was an unclean spirit/person doing in the synagogue on the Sabbath?

It is a reminder that Devil is crafty and can stop us from hearing the WORD.

Dear Friends! "The demon's challenge to Jesus (1:24) is a curious phrase in Greek (*Ti hemin kai soi;*) **'What do we have in common?'**"

Mark reminds us that the world is possessed with something or the other. Our society is possessed, Christians as much as anyone. We are possessed by violence, possessed by sexuality and its temptations, possessed by money, and possessed by idols.

What are you and I possessed with? What is something that is having power over us? Are you struggling with something that is having grip over you?

Jewish laws said essentially the same thing: touching an unclean (or defiled?) person or thing made you unclean (or defiled). **The bad infected the good. Jesus turns this around. This holy one from God can redeem the bad apples.**

Jesus is never worried about becoming unclean or sick by fraternizing with or touching the spiritually or physically or morally unclean. **He goes to the extent of cleaning and healing the unclean.**

Jesus taught with authority. *Kainos* can refer to something that did not exist before, e.g., the new teaching was something unheard of before. **The Wisdom of JESUS WORD often teaches us something new.**

Note carefully, the unclean man uses the word "US"? When the man with the unclean spirit (singular) cries out, he uses plural pronouns: **"What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?"** (v. 24). One interpretation is that "us" represents the power of evil.

All the demons surrender, there is no escape when the power of God's WORD is proclaimed.

Jesus rebukes the evil spirit with the commands: **"Be silent and come out of him." The Evil Spirits come out, crying out loudly.**

As Paul says in 1 COR 8:6 **"Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist". Everything needs to surrender when Jesus the WORD is proclaimed.**

Does God's word continue to astound and amaze us or are we seeking Google to get astounded and amazed?

One of the skills of God's servant is to create the space, the 'synagogue,' where our madness can come face to face with the holiness of Jesus. That also means coming to terms with our own madness."

Let us go in peace knowing that the power of Jesus Christ our Saviour dwells in us to overcome any demon that tries to possess us. We have the supreme authority abiding in us God Immanuel. **Amen**