

Title: THE HOLY ONE OF GOD, MARK 1:21 – 28
(Chatham, NJ; 02/01/15, AM) [E – Topical]

Theme: Jesus' authority is affirmed by three titles: prophet, the Holy One of God, and teacher.

Purpose: To convince the audience that these titles give Jesus authority from God and that he has the right to demand our obedience.

Introduction:

1. Authority is represented by each of the designations: prophet, Holy One, and teacher.
2. Jesus stands out from every other religious leader because of these.
3. We are thus compelled to make up our minds about whether to follow him.
4. These three designations affirm his authority.

I. The Prophet, Deuteronomy 18:

A. Moses and the one to follow

1. Moses revealed that a more important prophet was to come: "listen to him."
2. Reminiscent of the voice on the mount of Transfiguration.
3. God will put his words into that prophet's mouth, 18
4. Refusing to listen will make people liable to judgment, 19
5. John the Baptist also told his audiences that someone else was coming.

B. Authority from Moses and Fulfilled Scripture

1. His authority comes primarily from God
2. John 8:28, Jesus spoke with his Father's authority
3. His authority comes secondarily from Moses.
4. John 5:45-47, some of Jesus' listeners didn't really believe Moses' testimony
5. That Jesus fulfilled the role of "the prophet" is evident from Acts 3:22.
6. His authority comes thus from the testimony of the Apostle Peter

II. The Holy One of God: testimony by the demons, Mark 1:21-28

A. Demons know and believe

1. This demon approaches Jesus with questions
2. "What have you to do with us?" – the demon understood the threat that Jesus posed for him and other demons
3. "Have you come to destroy us?" – the answer is yes, 1 John 3:8, "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil."
4. "I know who you are—the Holy One of God." – the anointed one, the one set apart by God, the one who has the authority of God
5. Demons say more later in 3:11 – "You are the Son of God," and 5:7 – "the Son of the Most High God."
6. Humans don't address Jesus in that way; they call him Lord, teacher, Son of David, or master

B. Jesus authority comes from:

1. First, we see his power over demons
2. He tells them to leave and they flee
3. Second, their testimony about him is telling
4. The demonic voices from the nether world are significant
5. James 2:19 – Demons believe and shudder: James warns us about faith that doesn't also obey
6. Third, Jesus is the designated one from God
7. The testimony of the demons makes clear what the disciples finally believed

III. Teacher

A. His teaching ministry

1. 2xs in this passage people were astonished and amazed at Jesus
2. Both times involve his teaching
3. Even before Jesus commanded the demon, everyone was impressed with his teaching.
4. He taught as “one with authority,” 22
5. Casting out the demon added to their astonishment, 27: the new teaching came with authority over demons
6. Mark 1:38 – preaching the Kingdom of God was primary
7. The church is given the function of teaching people about God, Mt. 28:20
8. The Apostolic role carried on this role, Acts 6:2 & 4

B. His teaching authority

1. First, Jesus’ methods contrasted with the scribes
2. Jesus doesn’t quote other scribes, he asserts his beliefs with self-assurance
3. Second, Jesus possessed a “divine dignity” – John 7:46, the temple police said, “No one ever spoke like this man.”
4. Third, the substance of Jesus’ teaching, though challenged by the authorities, was felt to be true by the hearts of his listeners
5. I suspect those who opposed him felt it, and that was the reason for their ferocious opposition.

Conclusions:

1. What will you decide about Jesus and his teachings? You can’t remain neutral. His teachings and the claims made about him won’t allow you to adhere to neutrality.
2. If you decide against him, are you prepared for the consequences? Are you willing to bet your eternity on that decision?
3. If you decide for him, are you willing to put his teachings into practice? Are you willing to do more than merely talk about them? To suffer for identifying with him?
4. Remember that even the demons believe, but all it does for them is induce fear.
5. Jesus is the prophet, the Holy One of God, and the teacher above all teachers.
6. Believe, confess, repent, and be baptized! These are the first steps of faith, and his authority is the reason you should take them.