

**22S36 Mark 1:14-28 (Part 2)**

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today we are continuing our study of the gospel according to Mark with Mark 1:14-28 (Part 2) John the Baptist is now in prison and Jesus is calling his disciples and beginning his earthly ministry.

Before we start, we need to understand a little about this amazing book in the bible. Most historians believe Mark was the first written account of Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. The identity of Mark is not known for sure but most believe this is John Mark. John Mark is spoken of by Luke in Acts as the cousin of Barnabas, John Mark is mentioned in many other books on the new testament. Many believe he spent time traveling with Peter, so it is thought that much of Mark's gospel is actually from the perspective of Peter. We also believe that John Mark knew Jesus. There are accounts that Jesus stayed at Mark's mother's home, there are also some unique story details in Mark that are not in either Matthew's or Luke's accounts. We will try to highlight some of these as we go through the stories in Mark.

I'm reading from the New American Standard version (NAS) today. But of course, you can use whatever translation you choose.

Let's read Mark 1:14-28 (NAS) <sup>14</sup>Now after John was taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." <sup>16</sup>As He was going along the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will have you become fishers of people." <sup>18</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. <sup>19</sup>And going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John, who were also in the boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and went away to follow Him. <sup>21</sup>They went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup>And they were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, <sup>24</sup>saying, "What business do you have with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are: the Holy One of God!" <sup>25</sup>And Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" <sup>26</sup>After throwing him into convulsions and crying out with a loud voice, the unclean spirit came out of him. <sup>27</sup>And they were all amazed, so they debated among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him." <sup>28</sup>Immediately the news about Him spread everywhere into all the surrounding region of Galilee.

**Let's pray. Dear heavenly father, guide our discussion today such that your message is clear to each of us. As we read your words from Mark, help us see what Mark wants his readers to understand and why. I pray that you help me stay out of the way so your hope and peace can be shared with us. I pray this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.**

Now, let's take a closer look at these verses, Mark 1:14-15 (NAS) *Now after John was taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."* I'm not sure why there is so much controversy about this. Jesus says quite clearly the gospel of God. The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is here; believe the good news. The good news Jesus preached was the kingdom of God is here that is two thousand years ago. The kingdom of God did not go away, it's still here. We just need to believe that good news.

Let's read on, Mark 1:16-20 (NAS) *<sup>16</sup>As He was going along the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will have you become fishers of people." <sup>18</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. <sup>19</sup>And going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John, who were also in the boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and went away to follow Him.* There are many who point to these verses and the parallel verses in Matthew, Luke and John and see discrepancies. There are none. On your own read Matthew 4:18-22 and John 1:35-51. These stories are very different but there are no discrepancies, only different events and details. If you truly lay them out together you can see that Andrew and Peter had met Jesus before they were called from the boat in Mark chapter 1 and Matthew 4. Plus, John is not trying to give chronological account, only capture the events but not necessarily in the order they happened chronologically. I know that is difficult for us but Hebrew writers often did not write chronologically. You only need to read the first few chapters of the bible to see that. Somewhat chronological account with flashbacks to earlier parts of the story. Very similar to John's account. We assume John expected most of his readers to already be familiar with Mark, Matthew and maybe even Luke's accounts. That's why John's is so different, he was not trying to retell the same stories just like Mark, Matthew and Luke.

Let's read on, Mark 1:21-22 (NAS), *<sup>21</sup>They went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup>And they were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.* This part of the story should seem so familiar to us. It's just like us. When we first learn about Jesus, hear Jesus, read about Jesus. Almost everyone is amazed by the teaching of Jesus when they first hear. The teaching of Jesus is not like the teaching of anyone else who has ever lived. But then people question and start wondering if Jesus really knows best.

Let's read on, Mark 1:23-24 (NAS), *<sup>23</sup>Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, <sup>24</sup>saying, "What business do you have with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are: the Holy One of God!"* Can you imagine if you had been in the synagogue and this happened. A person who people knew to be possessed by a demon, starts talking about Jesus. What do you think of Jesus now? Obviously, this is pretty intense. Then Jesus does this in Mark 1:25-26 (NAS), *<sup>25</sup>And Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!"*

*<sup>26</sup>After throwing him into convulsions and crying out with a loud voice, the unclean spirit came out of him.*

Just think about it for a moment. Jesus is teaching and the people are amazed by what He says because it is powerful and with authority. Then a demon possessed man starts talking with Jesus, saying Jesus is the Holy one of God. Then Jesus rebukes the demon and it's gone. Many would have known about demons and exorcism but never had anyone had power to call a demon out like this.

Let's read on, Mark 1:27-28 (NAS), *<sup>27</sup>And they were all amazed, so they debated among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him."* <sup>28</sup>*Immediately the news about Him spread everywhere into all the surrounding region of Galilee.*

The people did not know what they were witnessing. They debated about it. Really. God just showed up in your town and did things no one else could do or has ever done. And it was still a debate. People have not change much. We know what Jesus did, but we still debate about His teaching. We still don't trust Jesus. He's God folks, I think He knows better than we do

Let's review.

- 1) Follow Me? The call of the disciples is perplexing to us in our modern world. Jesus says follow me and we say. Uh, oh, let me think about it. Then we miss it. The creator of the universe is calling you; we can't hesitate.
- 2) Authority? Jesus teaches us with authority because He is God. God really knows what is best. God does not need to quote others to give His message power. The message of Jesus was powerful because it spoke to the heart of everyone listening, just like it does today. Why do we hesitate? Probably for the same reasons the people in Galilee did. He can command a demon. He has authority over everything. His words so clearly show He is God. Now what?
- 3) Debate? People. We are always willing to talking about it, argue about it. Think about it. But so few are willing to act on it. Do what Jesus is telling us to do. Follow the king no matter what that means. We have to stop all the talk and thought and start doing what needs to be done. 1 John 3:18, don't just love in word and speech but in action and truth.

**Let's Pray. Heavenly Father thank you for Bible. Help us to read and meditate on your words so we can hear the message you have for us. Help us to remember who you are Lord. You are our king, king of kings. You are our Lord, Lord over everyone. We can trust you, Lord. Help us to ask you for wisdom when we don't understand. I pray this in your Name Lord Jesus. Amen**

Let me leave you with this, Mark jumps right into the story. Jesus calls disciples, they just follow. He teaches with authority, people are amazed. He commands a demon, people are amazed. Then instead of accepting what they have seen and heard, they start debating. Talk, talk, talk. Christians, friends. We have got to stop talking and

planning and thinking, and instead say yes to Jesus and follow the king. Love people the way Jesus loves them by serving them the way Jesus would serve them. Here in Mark the people are still questioning who is this Jesus? just like people do today. Let's find out together in this study of Mark. The Bible has been given to us so we can answer our questions. And yes, the Bible has been tested and tested and tested by critiques for hundreds of years. No one has ever proven the Bible to be invalid. In fact, despite all the challenges, none have proven to be able to disprove the Bible in any way. The more they try, the better the Bible looks compared to any other perspective. Now that is great news.

Thank you for joining me for our study of the gospel of Mark. Please email me comments or feedback. And if you liked the message, please share the link with your friends. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.