

THE DEVIL IN THE CHURCH

MARK 1:21-28

Text: Mark 1:21-22

Mark 1:23-24

²³ And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, ²⁴ Saying, Let *us* alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

Introduction:

When Solomon's Temple had been destroyed and the Jews were in exile, they survived by gathering together on the Sabbath to learn about their law and traditions. This was so useful that when they returned they wanted to continue this so they began to build places where they could gather together. They called these places synagogues.

It got to the point that they would build a synagogue if there was at least 10 adult men in that community and these synagogues were always either the highest building or placed on the highest ground.

In the normal service, psalms were sung, the Scriptures were read, and the sermon was preached. A time of questions and discussion followed. But, on this

particular day that Jesus was preaching, He had an interruption.

Notice:

1. THE MAN (vs. 23-24)

Mark 1:23-24

²³ And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, ²⁴ Saying, Let *us* alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

This possessed man was in the synagogue.

What was he doing there?

I wonder if he attended services regularly.

How often do people sit in services that are dead, so lifeless that men with evil spirits can sit in the services and never be convicted or helped spiritually?

The possessed man screamed out because he could not handle the purity of the Lord.

The demon recognized that the Lord had come to destroy him.

The demon identified the Lord. He said, "I know who you are- the Holy One of God."

He confessed Jesus.

What an indictment against so many!

They deny, while demons confess.

2. THE MASTER (VS. 25-26)

Mark 1:25-26

²⁵ And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. ²⁶ And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.

The Lord rebuked the unclean spirit.

The Lord didn't accept this demonic testimony.

Why?

This was only mental knowledge that Jesus was the Son of God.

It was not of the heart or of the will to follow Jesus.

It did not come from being born again.

The witness the Lord wants is the witness of a man who has made a decision to profess Him as Lord; the witness of a heart truly changed; the witness of a heart moved by the Spirit of God to confess, "You are the Holy One of God".

Look at the power of Jesus. He casts the unclean spirit out.

How; by His Word.

- His Word is Pure
- His Word is Precise
- His Word provides Peace
- His Word is Powerful

Notice the Lord said: Hold thy peace and come out of him.

3. THE MULTITUDE (vs. 27-28)

Mark 1:27-28

²⁷ And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine *is* this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him. ²⁸ And immediately his fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about Galilee.

The multitude reacted in three ways.

A. They were amazed

What the people had witnessed was unbelievable.

B. The questioned among themselves

C. His fame spread throughout the entire region

Imagine the conversation in the stores, businesses, homes, and streets as people traveled throughout the area and throughout the world.

Close:

The impact upon us should be the same. All three responses should characterize our lives as we witness the power of God in changing and healing lives.

In this difficult situation, within the church, the Lord prevailed, with power, and because of God's great power, and His working in lives of people, His fame will spread abroad.