



Discussion questions on Sunday's sermon "Give me 15 min to tell you who Jesus is"

1. **Read Mark 1:1.** Mark makes a pretty radical claim about Jesus. What is it and how do respond?
2. **Read Mark 1:16-19.**
 Why would these men drop everything to go and follow Jesus?
 What would have been the implications for the family and the family business?
 Jesus is not physically present for us to follow him around Galilee but what might it mean for us to follow Jesus today?
 What does Jesus mean when he says he will make them fishers of people?
3. **Read Mark 1:21-28.**
 What was so amazing about Jesus' teaching in contrast to that of the teachers of the law?
 How did the evil spirit know who Jesus is?
 What do you make of the instant reaction of the evil spirit to Jesus' command?
 Note v28 – news spread quickly because of Jesus' authority as a teacher and over evil!
4. **Read Mark 2:1-12.**
 Why were the mates willing to take such desperate measures to get their friend to Jesus?
 How do you think they reacted to Jesus' declaration that this man's sins are forgiven?
 What does that fact that Jesus talked about forgiveness with this man before dealing with his incapacity, tell us about what is more significant? What is *our* greatest need?
 How might it impact the way we see the people of Noosa if we remember that forgiveness is in fact their greatest need?
 Why are the religious leaders so upset by Jesus' claim to forgive sins?
 How did Jesus indicate that he has the power and authority to forgive sin?
5. **Read Mark 5:21:42**
 Favourite part of this story? Why did he tell the family to give the girl something to eat?
6. List the areas then, in which we clearly see Jesus' authority. If God turned up on earth, would you expect anything different? Mark (the Gospel writer) is saying that Jesus is God turned up in a person. We have great eyewitness accounts. If true, this can't be just moderately important!! It has to be the most significant news ever! Does your life come

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under his authority? *Pray that more and more people will see who Jesus really is and bring their lives under this authority.*

Date: 4 July 2021
Services: Across the Diocese
Series: Give me 15 minutes
Passage: various from Mark
Title: ...to tell you who Jesus is.
Aim: To show that Jesus has all the authority you'd expect him to have if God himself turned up on earth

Outline:

Authority

1. ...over people
2. ... over evil
3. ...as a teacher
4. ...to forgive sin
5. ...to heal
6. ...to raise from the dead

- we begin a new series this morning... “Just give me 15 minutes”
-short, sharp, hopefully (!) compelling... talks on topic...
- I hope you’ll be back each week... next week I want to show you why I'm not religious... then, why sad things happen to good people and finally, to tell you how much you matter to God...
- But this morning... Give me 15 minutes to explain who Jesus is... and my time starts now!
- This commanding figure who changed the course of history... Changed our calendar... Whose name people talk take on their lips so often... Whose teaching is embedded in our history and culture and literature without people even realising...
- Who is he?
- “Mark” is the name of the second of four accounts of Jesus’ life we have faithfully preserved in the New Testament documents... and he gets straight to the point in his opening verse... Mark 1:1 NIV
- [1] The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God,
- Messiah means **promised** and **anointed one**... But what does “**Son of God**” mean...?
- Let's explore that by looking at a couple of incidents in Jesus’ life... all from Mark’s gospel...
- 1:16 early on in Jesus’ time – *As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come follow me, Jesus said, and I will make you fishers of people. At once they left their nets and followed him.*
- Wow... that’s **some pulling power!**
- They had met before... we understand that from John’s gospel... but right here – they drop **everything**... they walk away from the **family business**... to be with **Jesus**...
- In the **next** verses – it happens again – **another** fishing family – James and his brother John... they also left the fishing business...

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- And we see immediately that Jesus had this pulling power... must have been an awe about him... something that **drew** people to **him**...
- Let's call it **authority**...
- he had a commanding authority over people... that they should take such radical steps to join Jesus on his mission not to fish for **fish** – but to fish for – **gather** – **people**!
- Then will you look at another passage with me – just a few verses later... 1:21-28
They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²² The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. ²³ Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, ²⁴ “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

²⁵ “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” ²⁶ The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

²⁷ The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him.” ²⁸ News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.
- There are two things I want you to note here
- **First**... when Jesus came on the scene... there was a greater **awareness** of the powers of **evil**...
- In western culture today... we don't see it that much – but in **Africa** and some **Asian** cultures... it's very evident and very **dark** and very **harmful**... Creates all sorts of **superstitions**... and is very **destructive**.
- So although this story is surprising to **us** – it would not have been surprising at the **time**...
- What **IS** surprising though is the definitive way Jesus **intervenes**.
- Note that the evil spirit makes a claim about Jesus' identity... v24 - *I know who you are... the Holy One of God..*
- But then Jesus ignores this... and simply says 'be quiet', 'come out of him'... and the evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek!
- This is **staggering**... it would have been **unheard** of... they would have stood there **gobsmacked**...!
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- But **equally** gobsmacking... was the way Jesus **TAUGHT**... in this passage...
- v22 - *The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law*
- Jesus **taught** like he **knew** what he was talking **about**...
- All the teachers of the law did was quote *previous rabbis*...
- And Jesus got up and said – “**I say** to you”!!
- They'd never heard anything like it before!
- It was **clear**... it was **compelling**... **intriguing**... **life-giving**...
- **See** their response at the end of the **passage**?
- *The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him.” ²⁸ News about him spread*

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quickly over the whole region of Galilee

- So we're putting together here a **picture** of this Jesus...
- He has **authority**...
- Authority over **people**.... **Come follow me** – and they do
- Authority over **evil spirits** – **come out of him** – and it leaves
- Authority as a **teacher** – **I say to you!** ///
- Now let me ask you – have you ever tried to get a friend in a wheelchair through a crowd?
- Masses of people... tight squeeze and you just can't get through to where you want to take them...
- That's the scene in the next incident I want to show you – the one that was read to us earlier.
- We won't read it again – but it's in Mark 2:1-12
- Jesus has come to a kind of home base... Capernaum.
- Word is **spreading**.
- He attracts a crowd wherever he goes. People come to him from **everywhere**
- As soon as the word is out that he's **home**, people **throng** to his place.
- He **preaches**. They **love** it. More **come**. //
- Some men have a **mate** who can't **walk**.
- They try to get him **through** the crowd **to Jesus** because they've heard of Jesus healing people just like him... he's not in a **wheelchair** – he's on a **stretcher**.
- They're determined to help their mate
- So determined that they go up to the roof of the house where Jesus is – probably stairs up the side... and incredibly... start putting a hole through the roof
- Can you imagine? Jesus is talking; he feels something fall on his shoulder... brushes it off... another lump of thatched roof falls... and he stops talking... looks up – and then everyone's eyes are on the roof being broken into by this man's mates.
- They're **good** mates!! – not sure how the owner felt at this point!
- They work out a way of lowering the man on his mat down to Jesus... ///
- So now this man is presumably lying on the floor in front of Jesus... his mates peering down from above eager to see what happens.
- Will he **heal** him... will our mate **get up**?? Is this going to work?
- They were full of expectation, of hope for a better future..
- In fact Jesus says they are full of **faith**...
- And because of the faith of his mates, Jesus says...
- *...Son, your **sins are forgiven**.*
- Can you imagine the reaction of the mates?
- Excuse me Jesus – that's very nice and everything... but there's been some confusion... he can't walk and we were wondering if you could help!!
- What's this about forgiveness?
- Two things for us to note..

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- Note that Jesus may just be pointing out that forgiveness is actually this man's greatest need at this point...
- Because it's **every** person's greatest need... it's **your** greatest need... to be forgiven.
- You don't want to be turning up to face God at the end of your time **unforgiven** – that's for **sure!! //**
- Second thing to say about forgiveness is well – who does Jesus think he is going around **forgiving sins?**
- That's quite **presumptuous** isn't it?
- And the teachers of the law – the Jewish religious leaders picked up on this – they weren't impressed... did you notice what they said? *Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?*
- And you know what? They were absolutely right... Who **can** forgive sins but God alone? *///*
- But how would you ever know....? There's no visibility about sins being forgiven... power to forgive sins – hard to **prove!**
- So Jesus **does** something else to demonstrate his **power**.
- He tells the man '**get up!**'
- "Get up, take your mat and go home."
- I love the next verse... it's SO **understated**...
- He got up, took his mat and walked out **in full view of them all!**
- And he didn't need rehab or physio or even a page of exercises... he is completely and utterly and wonderfully healed... he just gets up and walks out. *//*
- So we're building a picture of Jesus.
- He has authority over **people - come**
- Authority over **evil - go**
- Authority as a **teacher – I say to you**
- Authority to forgive sins – **your sins are forgiven**
- Authority to heal – **get up //**
- What do you **make of that? /////**
- Let me tell you about a lady who had been 12 years **sick** and a little girl 12 years **old**.
- It's over in Mark 5.
- One of the rulers of the synagogue named Jairus fell at Jesus' feet – desperately **anxious** for his little girl who was **dying**.
- Jesus agrees to **help** and sets **out** with **Jairus**...
- ...but is interrupted on the way.
- A woman had suffered for 12 years due to bleeding... I'm sure women here will know more about what that might mean for this poor woman than I do...
- She was determined just to touch Jesus' clothes.. in the hope that power would sort of **rub off** and she would be **healed**.
- She got close enough just to touch the **tip**... and right at that moment she knew... her bleeding **stopped** and she felt in herself that she was **free** from her **suffering** and from the **social and religious isolation** that had gone **on** with it.... *//*

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- Jesus drew her out and **assured** her she was **indeed** healed...
- But in the time that that had happened... **bad** news... **dreadful**... **Jarius'** daughter is **dead**. /
- Someone had come from the house and brought word telling him not to bother Jesus any more... obviously the assumption was that now she was dead there was nothing **more** Jesus could **do**!
- Jesus thought otherwise and told Jairus just to trust him.
- He turned up at Jairus' place
- Everyone was **distraught**
- But Jesus **took command**
- He took the little girl's mum and dad along with three close disciples.... Went in to where the girl was laid out... and simply and wonderfully took her by the hand and spoke to her.... **'Little girl... get up'**
- What was to **happen**?
- You can imagine mum and dad **watching anxiously, waiting**...
- They didn't have to wait long because Mark tells us that **immediately** she stood up and walked around...
- They were absolutely **astounded**...!
- And we see in this beautiful account – again – Jesus' authority to **heal** and **restore** – his authority over **illness**... but **significantly**... that his authority reaches down right to the **dead**... he has authority to raise people from the **dead**!
- Jesus has **authority**:
 - Over **people**
 - Over **evil**
 - To **teach**
 - To **forgive**
 - Over **illness**
 - Over **death**
- What do you **make** of that??
- Elsewhere we see his authority over **nature** as he calms a storm with a word from his mouth and multiplies one family's picnic so it feeds **thousands** of people... and walks on **water**... and opens blind **eyes** and unstops **deaf ears**. //
- And I want to put it to you this morning that Jesus has all the authority you'd **expect God** to have, if he turned up in **person**!
- Jesus **IS** God visiting this planet! That's who he is.
- People often tell me 'Mark, I'd believe in God if he just turned up'
- ...to which I say – he **did**!!
- He did – and we have the **eye witness** accounts just **here**!!
- He turned up for **you**
- So you could know he's for **real**
- He turned up to call you back into **relationship** with himself and to do **everything** to make that **possible**

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- He turned up to live the **perfect live** you've not been able to live and he turned up to die the **death** you **deserve**.
- What will you **do** about Jesus' having turned up?
- If God turned up right now... I think we'd take notice.
- And it would be **magnificent** and **awe inspiring** and **wonderful**
- God did turn up – and it WAS **magnificent** and **awe inspiring** and **wonderful //**
- Many here – know him **well** – love and serve him **well**.
- But if you **don't**? ... **Today's** the day to start a journey either of **return** or **rediscovery**... and I'd love to talk to you more and help you on that **path**.
- Who is **Jesus** – Son of **God**?? God turned up in **person**... and he came for **you**....
- CL Lewis: this is either true and therefore very important... or false and therefore of no importance... the one thing it cannot be is of **moderate** importance!
- ... the one thing it cannot be is of moderate importance!