

ASTONISHING AUTHORITY

Mark 1:21-28

If studying the life of a surgeon, we would want to spend time observing the surgeon in the operating room, and follow as he or she made hospital rounds. If our interest lay in the world of a prosecuting attorney, we'd want to be in the courtroom during a trial. If it's the life of a football coach we want to analyze, we would watch the coach interact with the players on and off the gridiron. What would be of interest to us is called the person's "body of work"—and that requires us to be in the most-familiar place when the individual fulfills his or her responsibilities.

Since Mark's desire is to introduce his readers to the earthly ministry of Jesus of Nazareth in Galilee, we are not surprised that he escorts us into the local synagogue on the Sabbath. Being engaged in ministry, Jesus' "body of work" would be seen here. It occurred in Capernaum, a town on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. This village was home to the four men He had just called to be among His close followers—Peter, Andrew, James, and John—and it was likely the same synagogue that those men had always attended. However, this Sabbath day would be like no other in anyone's memory!

I. A Quick Reminder

Introduction and Review

- The first place Jesus goes (1:16a)
- The first men Jesus calls (1:16b-20)

II. Public Ministry on the Sabbath

Exposition

- A first-century synagogue
- Teaching the people (1:21-22)
 - How He teaches: _____
 - How they respond: _____
- Dealing with demons (1:23-26)
 - What this reveals about demons
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - How Jesus handles the situation
 - 1.
 - 2.
- Responding to Jesus (1:27-28)

III. The Invitation of Jesus Today

Application

- What makes teaching authoritative?
- Do we have authority over demons?
- Why must we submit to God's authority?