



WEEK TWO

MARK 1:16-45

# ON GOOD AUTHORITY

Jesus announced to everyone he met: “the reign of God has come near!” Why? Because Jesus himself was God living among us. Jesus himself embodies the reign of God. Now, if we see God’s reign as bringing justice and goodness, that’s great news! But that’s not how everyone sees it. Lots of people would prefer to be the masters of their own lives, not under the authority of Jesus...

1. Consider those who have authority over you in your life – bosses, governments, teachers, parents. Is your response to authority usually positive or negative? Why?

***READ MARK 1:14-34***

2. Do you notice any themes that run throughout this passage?

3. Why do you think Simon, Andrew, James and John respond so quickly and decisively to Jesus?

- What does this tell us about Jesus?

4. What are the ramifications for the disciple's lives when they take up Jesus' command to "Follow me!"?

- Do these seem reasonable things to ask of people? Why or why not?

5. In verses 21-22 and 27, attention is given to the manner of Jesus' teaching. What is Mark trying to tell us about Jesus?

- What effect do you think Mark means to have on us?

## LIKE HE OWNS THE PLACE

6. In verses 29-34, what is Mark teaching us about Jesus?

- How does Simon's mother-in-law react to being healed?
- What does this tell us about Jesus' call on our lives?

*Apparently, Jesus wouldn't allow the demons to speak because they knew who he was (1:24-25 & 35). But why wouldn't Jesus want people to know who he was? Maybe because they'd make the wrong inference about why he had come...*

## **READ MARK 1:35-45**

7. How does Jesus react to Simon's plea, "Everyone is looking for you!"?

- Why do you suppose Jesus reacts like this?
- What do we learn about Jesus' character, priorities and purposes?

8. What does the healing of the leper reveal about Jesus?

- What was intended by Jesus' specific instructions?
- What was the result of the leper's actions and what does it teach us?

*Jesus wouldn't allow demons to disobey him. But he does allow people like the leper to disrespect his authority. At least in this life, it's up to us how we respond.*

9. In which areas of your life and thought are you reluctant to submit to the authority of Jesus? Why is that?

10. Is Jesus someone whose authority you can trust and submit to? Why or why not?

- Has this study affected your answer? How so?

*Jesus is someone whose authority is real whether we trust him and submit to him or not. He is the human embodiment of God's own reign over all the universe. But fortunately we can trust him, since he uses his authority not to serve himself but to save us! As Mark's story goes on, ultimately we see Jesus dying on the cross to save us from our sins. His authority is good authority. Let's pray we can trust Jesus enough to obey him in everything.*