

## "A day in the King's life"- Mark 1:21-34

### Sermon for CCH 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 2018

#### Before the reading

Before we have our reading and sermon today, I'd like to ask a question...

*"In the following situations, what do you most need to know..."*

- **Temptation**. I don't know what it is – a recurring strong desire to say or do something that you know isn't right. And at those times, God feels very distant and unreal, and everything in your head is screaming, "Just do it. Just say it. Forget the consequences". Know?
- **Anxiety**. Perhaps there's something in your life that triggers anxiety. It could be anything- a trip to the doctor, bumping into someone from your past, fears about something in the future, but that thing sends you into a spin whenever you encounter it. What need know?
- **Doubt**. That might be **self-doubt**- a lack of confidence about yourself, or where your life is going. Or it may be more **about God** and Jesus Christ. On a Monday, when you are face to face with the mundane things of life, and well God felt close on Sunday when I was at church, but when I try to pray now it feels like a great big fairy story. Have I fallen for some massive delusion? What need to know?

I'm sure there's much that the lifestyle magazines and blogs would say to us in these situations, some of which would be helpful, and some of which would be very unhelpful. **But you need to know Christianity is True.**

Something that we have been seeing from the start of Mark's gospel, and which we will see again in our reading today that brings real help and perspective and comfort. And that is this straightforward discovery we have been making that... **JESUS CHRIST IS KING**.

If we could be persuaded that Jesus really is real, and he really is in control and he really is good and loves me (or to put all into Bible language, **Jesus Christ is LORD**) then I think we would find that those difficult things wouldn't go away, but we'd be able to face them with a new confidence.

And that's what I want to persuade you of today.

I'm going to ask Matt to read our passage (a slightly longer passage), which is basically just one day in the life of Jesus. And we're going to see three areas in Jesus' life that I hope convince us that he really is King. So that when temptation or anxiety or doubt strike us, we can strike back with the reality of the universe- that Jesus Christ is Lord.

READING: Mark 1:21-34

#### **V27**

Now Jesus lived on earth for 33 years, but today we are just going to look at one day in his life, towards the beginning of his ministry.

And there are two key words in this passage that immediately stand out...

The first is **Authority**

I mentioned this last week. **How do you spot a King or a Queen?** It's authority. What they say happens.

▲ The Queen is now 92 years old, and during her reign she has travelled to 130 different countries. Apparently whenever she travels, she always takes her royal kettle and her own brand of Twinings Earl Grey tea with her.

No-one can say, "you can't take your kettle with you", She's the Queen, she has authority- she can do what she likes. She's in charge, she calls the shots.

Other people in authority would be a **policeman**, a doctor, a fireman a postman. They all have authority by virtue of their role to do a task.

Well Jesus shows his **authority** in this passage, and that is crucial, because it will give us the persuading that we need in each of those contexts (Temptation, anxiety and doubt) and others, that Jesus Christ is the King.

And there's another word there in v30.

It's the word **immediately**.

In original lang it comes 5 times in passage (,

- V21 when the sabbath came (immed on Sab)
- V23 JUST THEN (immed a man)
- V28 QUICKLY (his reputation went out immed)
- V29 AS SOON AS (and immediately as they left syn)
- V30 IMMEDIATELY (NIV).

A favourite word of Mark's comes 37 times in book!

Jesus has immediate authority.

Let's look at it in 3 areas.

### **AUTHORITY IN TEACHING (v21-22).**

Just one day. Saturday!

Capernaum- rich agric. village by lake of Galilee (where we saw J call disc).

Synagogue- gathered (church), 4C one, prob built on site of this one.

In small rural synagogue quite common wandering preachers

Come and open scriptures (our OT) and say this is what this rabbi says.  
(must have been bit boring). But J didn't do that.

Yes he opened Scrip (see eg in Luke 4) 2 radical things he did:

1. Talk with **authority** (Matt: S on Mt, I TELL YOU). He didn't rely on what others said, he had authority.
  - Wasn't waffle. He knew what talking about
  - Wasn't general, (horoscopes) Spoke into people's lives
  - Wasn't high and mighty. Down to earth- language. Birds, flowers, sower, treasure!
  - Wasn't shallow. (yes simple enough child, but deep!)
  - Wasn't same old. Regurgitated! This guy says this.
  - AUTHORITY

2. Talk about **himself** (v15, King has come). Long awaited time. Pointing to himself as the promised King come to set God's captives free.

King has to know what talking about, and Jesus did.

Must have been wonderful hear J preaching.

Back to start. Let's take doubt. Confused about self? Get Bible open.

Confused about God. Doubting even there. Go to the teaching of Bible.

Esp Jesus.

### 1) **AUTHORITY OVER EVIL**

#### V23

Wow!

All v polite today. Did once have a sermon just interrupted.

Now we might be sceptical about existence of evil spirits.

We might look back on that generation as naïve, thinking that they naively saw the work of the devil in what we might think are health conditions (epilepsy,

Actually we are the naïve ones if we doubt the existence of the devil and a world of evil spirits.

Devil has a couple of tactics...

- 1) Think that he's behind everything (so paralysed by fear)
- 2) Think he doesn't exist (so we blindly get on without thinking about him)

But real. Here unclean spirit. Impure. His life had been oppressed by a demonic force.

But what's fascinating is what happens next

V24

It's going to take 9 chapters for disciples figure out who J is (Peter in ch9 Cs Philippi- you are the Christ), even then they got lots wrong.

Here an impure spirit knows.

As one of my friends puts it, Satan sees Jesus coming and wets himself.

So J deals with the impure spirit. v25-26

Response is one of amazement: v27-28

Back to start.

Ever been in situation of temptation?

We have an evil enemy who wants to trip us up. Glad to speak lies into Christian hearts. Described in

Glad to tell those just beginning to investigate. Not important. Not real. NOT URGENT!

He loves to whisper lies into our ears: just try it once. It doesn't matter. God's word isn't clear about it. No-one will know.

Well what a relief that with a word Jesus can banish Satan.

What authority he has.

Yes Satan is real and is powerful- Heb 2:14 says he holds the power of death.

But Jesus when he died defeated Satan, and when he rose demonstrated he ultimately held power over the one who holds the power of death.

Whose side do you want to be on?

3) Finally we look at his **AUTHORITY TO HEAL**.

V29 shows we are still same day. **Wow- just one day enough to show us**

Lets look at last story.

Big family home- Capernaum arch best. Central courtyard Rooms. All shared central area. Owned fishing business w servants.

V30 No mother in law jokes!

v31

Remarkable authority. Not just take 2 pills, feel better in few days.

Immediacy.

Transformed- picture of life touched by Jesus; begins to serve.

Wow- Over summer we as church helped w service in Hinchingsbrooke.

What we would have given to be able to do this.

Up to wards to collect patients.

- Teenage boy on the cancer wing
- Confused old lady with dementia.
- The old man who'd had a fall.
- Worried relatives in the coffee shop

Hinchingsbrooke Hospital wd be empty.

It's a foretaste of the Kingdom Jesus bringing.

You see when we turned our back on God, (SIN)

**suffering sadness** and **sickness** came into the world.

And Jesus is the one to deal with the core issue (sin)

And so he's able to deal with the symptoms.

And in his perfect heaven

Does that mean we should expect perfect healing now

We can pray for it. But we still live in a fallen world, and no guarantee these healing miracles which characterised J ministry then are automatically transferred to the church today.

If we don't experience healing today, doesn't mean we lack faith, or are a sub standard Christian.

In fact next week we are going to see Jesus moving away from these villages to preach.

But these miracles (witnessed by disciples- SIMON PETER prob dictated to Mark in the early years of Xty). These miracles prove to us that Jesus is exactly who he says he is: God's King come to earth.

But back to the situations we started with.

Doubt, temptation, anxiety.

- a trip to the doctor,
- bumping into someone from your past,
- fears about something in the future

Jesus Christ is King. He's proved it throughout gospels, but take just one day.

We can trust him with these areas.

God has sent his son to come and bring

Morning. Afternoon. Evening v32-34. Summary.

How can anyone say, Jesus just a man. Or a clever teacher. Or just a healer.

No he's so much more- he's God's King.

Let's pray