

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel – Adapted from Mark 1:21-28

Jesus came to Capernaum with his followers, and on the sabbath day he taught in the synagogue. The people were amazed by his teaching because he taught as if he had authority, unlike the scribes. In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, “What are you going to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!”

Jesus said, “Be silent, and come out of him!” With a loud cry the unclean spirit came out of him.

Everyone was amazed and said, “What is this?”

A new teaching! He even commands the unclean spirits with authority, and they obey him.” His

fame began to spread through the whole region of Galilee.



Reflection

In today’s Gospel, Jesus demonstrates His authority, His power. Jesus is God, and He really is the King of the universe. Some of the people in today’s Gospel started to see the truth about Jesus.

Imagine you were there at the synagogue in Capernaum that day. What would you have thought? You would have come in for prayer and study. But instead of a scribe, wondering about Scripture, telling you what he thinks, here was a man who could teach what the Scripture means, without wondering. He could tell you what is true, with authority.

Then, right in the middle of the service, a man with an evil spirit stands up and makes a scene. Jesus commands the evil spirit to leave the man alone. Jesus doesn’t ask politely; He doesn’t say “pretty please;” He

commands. And the evil spirit obeys. You have never seen anyone with power and authority like this before. What would you have done? Would you have believed in Jesus?

If you did, then there is another question. Would you have followed Him? In today's Gospel, the evil spirit believed in Jesus. That evil spirit knew who Jesus is. But that spirit hated Jesus; it would never follow Him. We must know who Jesus is, and then we must love Him; we must follow Him.



Discussion Questions

What would you have done if you had been there that day?

Do you follow Jesus? What can you do to follow Him more closely?

Vocabulary

- **Authority** - The power to make judgments or give commands that others must follow.
- **Faith** - The virtue that allows us to believe in God and everything He reveals to us.
- **Scribes** - Those who studied and interpreted the Jewish Law professionally. Still, they did not teach with authority.
- **Synagogue** - A Jewish house of prayer, where the people come together to worship God. It was a town's center of the Jewish community.

Fill in the blanks

- 1 Even though the _____ studied the Scriptures, most of them did not realize who Jesus is.
- 2 The Jewish people met to pray and read the Scripture in the _____ on the Sabbath day.

3 People need _____ to follow Jesus.

4 Jesus was able to teach and command the unclean spirits with _____.

Quiz

1 What amazed people about the teaching of Jesus in the synagogue?

- A He taught with authority
- B He had very good grammar
- C He knew the Scriptures
- D He had a loud voice

2 On what day was Jesus teaching in the synagogue?

- A Monday
- B Sunday
- C Friday
- D The Sabbath day

3 How did Jesus help the man in the synagogue?

- A He healed his blindness
- B He cast an unclean spirit from him
- C He helped him walk
- D He showed him the road to the temple

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

S I Q K G C M H R R L N H K P
N E M W R G T H Q K F M T Z V
P O B H F I Z T C U G F S O O
T W T I A D Z A T T H C R M A
R Y T F R E I B Y H K L L M Z
L G U D E C Y B G H M B E Y D
J E S U S G S A I Q A A B Y A
K O M J T Q I S K E U K W Y P
K I J V G E X J M T J V K D N
P R V B G D O S H A B I B H K
C S S H E I N O A R E I Y G T
W W E V D T R Q O Y I B B K I
C Y W U O I E U G O G A N Y S
L B N Q T L M D M D A Y Y N Y
I O M Y W K X Y I U Z J F P C

AUTHORITY

FAITH

JESUS

SABBATH

SCRIBES

SYNAGOGUE

Answers:

Fill in the blanks

- 1 Scribes
- 2 Synagogue
- 3 Faith
- 4 Authority

Quiz

- 1 A – He taught with authority
- 2 D – The Sabbath day
- 3 B – He cast an unclean spirit from him



