

“Jesus the Man of Power”

Mark 1:21-39

Introduction

- As Pastor Rob has been teaching us, each gospel, and there are four of them just in case you are new, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – each gospel has a different audience and theme in mind

Matthew was written to the Jews, the focus is Jesus is the King of the Jews – he doesn't explain a lot of the Jewish Customs because he doesn't have to – He uses very Jewish phrases for the Messiah to speak of Jesus

- **Luke was written to the Greeks**, the learned of the first century, and therefore the level of Greek is higher, bigger words than the other gospels – **the focus is on Jesus being the Ultimate Man**

John was written to the world – The focus was Jesus was God –

- **Mark was written to the slave population of Rome** – the stories move fast, it's the shortest gospel – the language isn't that difficult and **the Focus is on Jesus being the ultimate Servant** – and you will see that as we go through the book –

“For the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many” – Luke 10:45 – is really the key verse for this book

- Jesus came as the ultimate servant
 - But as we see Him this morning, He is not what we think of when we think of a Servant – being pushed around, not in control of his own life
 - Living his life being dominated by other people and other things

No in our text today – Jesus seems to be in complete control – He seems to have power

- Power in His Words, Power over evil, Power over everyday situations that we all face and even Power over the impossible things of life.
 - He is a man in complete control
 - He is a man that has power over everything in His life
- And this amazes, this draws my attention to the text, because I would have to say, this is not me, not normally
 - My life seems to be managed chaos
 - We have three kids at home, a 10 and a six year old girl and an 8 year old boy right in the middle
- We have decided to homeschool this year, which my wife does an amazing job with, but on those few days I do it – you see she is also suddenly, this year for the first time, a popular women's event speaker, Five women's events last month, outside of this church,
 - So she goes away and now I'm homeschool leader, that was not what I agreed to
 - And you throw in now this dog that desperately needs some potty training
 - And it is managed chaos when Daddy is in charge of the house

And then I see Jesus, who never seems to be in a hurry, never seems overwhelmed, never losses his cool, always in control

- and I turn to the text this morning and I say, Help me Jesus!

- What was it about you and why was there so much control, so much power in your life
- Well if you are taking notes, there are four things I want you to consider this morning, four areas of life where Jesus had power

Jesus – The Man of Power – Mark 1:21-39

Power in His Words – Mark 1:21-22

Power Over Evil – Mark 1:23-28

Power Over the Ordinary – Mark 1:29-31

Power Over the Impossible – Mark 1:32-34

Jesus – The Man of Power – Mark 1:21-39

Power in His Words – Mark 1:21-22

- Remember what we just learned last week – Jesus is just beginning His ministry
 - He had just taken on 4 disciples which would in time be 12 disciples
 - And Jesus takes this band of 4 merry men to Peter's home town of Capernaum

And this town will be Jesus base of ministry from this point forward

- and I tell you I can't blame Jesus at all – I have been to Israel quite a few times with the church in Texas and my in-laws planting a Calvary Chapel there, and I love the country, but my favorite spot in the whole country of Israel was not Jerusalem, or Tel Aviv where Christy's parents live, not the dead sea, my favorite spot was right here next to the sea of Galilee
 - **Pictures of the Sea of Galilee**
 - it really reminded me of San Diego – the Climate was perfect, the cool breeze of Galilee
- And right on the North Shore of the sea of Galilee is this town of Capernaum
 - **Capernaum means – “The Town of Nahum”** – some scholars believe the old testament prophet Nahum was originally from this area

And Jesus comes to the this town and immediately goes into the synagogue to preach – pictures of the synagogue

The synagogue Jesus actually taught in would be the ruins underneath the slightly newer structure you see there, but it was build right on top of the old one, and looked very similar

- Jesus goes into the synagogue and He begins to preach

Now understand this was not the temple

- Judaism in the first century had a temple in Jerusalem, where sacrifices were made
 - These synagogues were places of worship, where the scriptures were read, and taught, very much like we would think of as church today –
- they were raised up in any town where there were 10 Jewish males – They needed 10 because as we studied on our Wednesday thru the Bible in Genesis – Abraham was talking with God about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and he whittles God down from 50 to 40 to 30, to how about 10 – if there are 10 righteous men in the city will You spare it
 - God says, I will spare the city for 10 righteous men
 - So the Jews figured as long as they had 10 Jewish men in a city, that city was safe, so go ahead and build a synagogue

- These synagogues in the first century were run not by priests or even Rabbi, but laymen, just people who loved God
 - And when a traveling Rabbi or teacher would be in town, well he would get the pulpit
 - And this morning – they get The Man, God is coming to preach in their church
 - And just like you would think it would be if God was filling the pulpit at your church – they were blown away

The scriptures say they were astonished at His preaching, and the reason was, He didn't teach like most rabbis of the time

- The teachers at the time, were, how can I say this, they were boring
 - And I think that is a sin – sometimes people try to calm me a little bit after, wow, simmer down son, but I can't help it
 - This is the most powerful, living, life transformation book that has ever been written – I get excited about what it says and I will never apologize for that
- If you want boring, just go back to first century Israel – the teachers of the day were addicted to quotes
 - Rabbi Gamaliel says this about the text, however Rabbi Hillel thinks it means this, but if you consider what Rabbi Solomon says, it is really kind of funny – huh!
- And more than being boring, oh get this, get this church – here I go getting excited again – more than just being boring – it was second hand theology
 - They spent all their time talking about what others said the scriptures meant, what others had learned about the scriptures, not what they knew the scriptures meant to them
 - It was all secondhand theology

And when Jesus would share it was real

- it wasn't what others thought about God, it was His heart for God
 - Jesus would say, you have heard it said... but I say unto you
 - And the people were moved, there was power in His preaching, because it wasn't secondhand theology for Jesus – it was what He knew already in His heart

OH hear me gang, this is not just a word for preachers, though every preacher needs to hear this, but for everyone of us

- we share with a co-worker, and the words seem so flat
 - we share with a neighbor, but it just seems wimpy, wimpy, wimpy
 - why?
- Well maybe God is just stretching you, teaching you to depend on Him
 - Maybe
 - Or maybe you need to stop the secondhand theology, oh this is what Pastor Rob says, this is what Pastor Jason says, this is what I read in Oswald Chambers

David said, “Taste and see that the Lord is good” – Psalm 34:8

- and the implication of the text is for yourself
 - you have to know God
 - it is not enough for you - that I know Him

- it is not enough for you – that Pastor Rob knows Him
- you need to know Him, you need to walk with Him in Spirit and in truth
- you need to taste and see that the Lord is good!
 - You need to grab hold of Him in your own life, and let this become more than words on a page, but life and truth
- You need to let it affect the way you live
 - And then when you share with that friend, with that neighbor, with that coworker, it will be like thunder because your heart it is already lightening – light and truth and when you speak it's the thunder of reality – to you personally
- Jesus had power in His words, but that's not all...

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Power Over Evil – Mark 1:23-28

- Jesus is teaching, people are being blessed, and then the voice of the supernatural being speaking through a man, what a scary moment that must have been
 - The demon cries out through the man he possessed and he uses the name of Jesus, the Holy one of God – it was a common thought of the day that if you knew someone's name you could have mastery over them – this may be what the demon was attempting – “leave me alone!!!”

But whatever the intention of the demon, his phraseology to Jesus did not work on Jesus – Because Jesus not only has power in His words, but He also has power over evil

- I love – this demon is howling, telling Jesus to leave him alone
 - And Jesus just says, “Be quiet”
 - Literally it just mean – “Be muzzled”
 - I love it – it just shows His power over evil!

Our little dog tries to act big, people come to the door, you think we have a Rottweiler, instead of a Maltipoo – you can't be tough if your breed is Maltipoo – I came home the other day, and the little dog started barking so I opened the door and starting barking at her, and I love it, she just peed everywhere – because she acts big, but she has no authority

- So gets a little nippy with me, I grab her mouth, hold it shut and say – be muzzled
 - Now I am generally not that comfortable with dogs, if you have a big dog – I am not going to grab its mouth when it's barking at me – I have no power, no authority over your large dog
 - But something called a Maltipoo – oh yeah – be muzzled – I have the power!!!

Now Jesus has power, not just over some Maltipoo, but over demonic forces, over the evil that dwells in men's hearts

- And maybe for you, that is the big one - maybe you are not so concerned about power in your Words
 - maybe for you it is power over the evil you see in your heart
 - now, most likely not demonic power – some of you are saying I knew there was something wrong with my husband, now I see it, it's a demon

- No most likely not demonic evil, but all of us know what it is like to look inside our own heart and think, that is ugly, that's evil, and that needs to go
 - But how – I have tried to be free for so long
 - I just can't do it

Who knows how long this man sat in this congregation

- hearing weak little sermon after sermon
 - never moved, never challenged
 - maybe years, he had sat there
- But Jesus is there one day and everything changes

Here me on this church, you may have been trying for years to overcome besetting sin, with no victory whatsoever

- and you are discouraged, you have no hope
 - and you are about to give up
 - I have good news friend – Jesus has power over the evil that dwells in your heart
 - The answer always is Jesus!
- I think we go about this totally wrong
 - We think – well I have got to overcome this issue and so I focus on it, I think about it
 - But the more I focus on the sin in my flesh, the greater impact it seems to have on my heart

It's the way our flesh works – if I say to you, 'don't think about pink elephants, don't you dare think about pink elephants in purple tutus' – you sinner, what are you doing?

- and the more I think on sin, the more it grips my heart
 - but if I would turn my eyes to Jesus
 - what did Jesus tell His disciples in our last study

“Follow me and I will make you become a fisher of men” – Mark 1:17

- Jesus didn't say, follow me and try to figure it out
 - Following me and try really hard
 - He said – your job - follow me, you seek after me
 - My job – I will make you become – fill in the blank
 - He is going to do it

You see we need to – “Turn your eyes to Jesus, look full in His Wonderful face and the things of earth, will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace”

- Turn your eyes to Jesus
 - Well I tried that and then it got worse
 - Well – it did for this guy to at first
- In verse 26 it says the demon convulsed this poor man, in the NIV, says the demon let out a shriek
 - What is happening?
 - The enemy doesn't want to let go – He has had control and He doesn't want to let go
- So it might get worse before it gets better, but you keep following Jesus
 - You keep your eyes on Jesus
 - The man of Power

- You just keep following Him

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- Jesus had power in His words, Power over evil and now we see He has power over the ordinary, just the things you and I face everyday

You know sometimes context is hard to understand – things happened in the Bible and we are separated by 2,000 years of history, 8,500 miles of geography

- and so we read some stories and we think, what in the world is going on – it is why the class I am taking right now in Seminary is New Testament Context, to help understand what their world was like in light of what the Bible is saying
 - sometimes context is hard to understand
- However that is not true with this story – being hungry after church, and going to get something to eat is something we can all understand

I first visited Calvary Chapel Vista when I was a young kid – my grandparents were part of this church when Brian Brodersen was the pastor – and when I would come down from Orange County to visit them, this is where we went to church, but they would bring me into the sanctuary, with the light wood and the blue pews and I would sit as an 8 year old, and we would go to the old early service, like 7:45 and as Brian would teach I would just think the whole time of Home Town Buffet – I know that is horrible, I don't remember a thing he said, I was like in second grade, but I remember sitting in here just thinking about hometown buffet – if that is what you are doing right now, I am so sorry you are bored, but I understand, I have been there – I will end and you will get your food

- when I was older my attention span grew, but so did the day

I met Pastor Rob and started working here when I was 20, which by the way was 15 years ago today, well, not when I started working here, but 20 years old was 15 years ago today, because today is my Birthday – Happy Birthday to me!

- But when I started working here, we had 3 services, the staff had to be here at 6:45am – after teaching for the first two services, I would sit in here for third, and Pastor Rob back then always seemed to talk about food
 - And it was horrible at times, he is describing what he ate last week, and I am just smelling a combination of Jack in the box and Albertos, just waving in the room –
 - When he said Amen it was like 1pm and I was ready to eat
- And we all know what this is like - so we get this

Synagogue is over, the disciples are hungry, and it was customary to have your main Sabbath meal right after synagogue

- So they would have left the synagogue and headed to Peter's house
 - Right across from the excavations of the Synagogue there in Capernaum, we also have pictures of excavations of Peter house
 - **Pictures of Peter's house**
- How do they know it's Peter's house, - the door mat duh – pictures of his momma on the wall!

No – the early Christian symbols of the fish or Ichthus were found on this particular house, and we know the early church continued to meet in the home of Peter – so the scholarship is pretty good

- The location was expanded as the church grew over time and now a giant catholic structure has been build over it

So church is out, the disciples and Jesus are hungry, they head to Peter's home

- and yet as the disciples went to Peter's house, they found Peter mother-in-law is sick with a fever

First of all notice Peter was married

- Some of our Catholic brothers and sisters, and don't get me wrong I love Catholics, my stepdad is a catholic, I love Catholics that really love Jesus, but the Catholic church teaches that Peter was the first pope and was not married, but...
 - Peter has a mother-in-law – now that is usually package deal – you don't have a mother-in-law unless you have a wife
 - And you get one after you have the other – I have never met a young single man who said to me, I need another Mom, I am going to go out a find me a Mother-in-law – and then I will get married
 - No – the young single man says – I need a woman and the mother-in-law comes along as a package deal
 - So Peter was married

But the second thing I notice and something that is far more important to me than the marital status of Peter was the fact that Jesus deals with the sickness that we have - no indication is more severe than a simple fever

- It's a fever – now, fever can be bad – last week, for almost two weeks I had a fever and it is amazing how our body temp can rise by just a few degrees and we don't want to do anything
 - last week – but you were here doing announcements, teaching Wednesday Night – yeah because you feel bad, but its only a fever, you are not going to die

And what amazes me is the God who spoke with such authority, the God who told the demon to be muzzled, the one who says to the oceans stop here and they do, the one who died for the sins of the world

- that God – cares when you have a fever
 - He cares - when you get your heart broken
 - He cares - when your transmission goes out
 - He cares
- He cares about the simple things in your life
 - And wants you to bring those things to Him
- This same Peter who saw the creator of the universe, walk into his mother-in-law, and touch her so gentle and heal her of something so simple so completely, he would later say in his epistle..

“Cast all your care upon Him, knowing He cares for you.” – I Peter 5:7

- Oh but that thing is so little and He is so big
 - Cast all of your care upon Him – He cares about everything that is on your heart
 - Man – no one is like Jesus

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- at evening everyone came and they came with various diseases – the reason they came at evening is because it was at the end of the Sabbath, as soon as you could count three stars in the sky, the Sabbath was over - at the end of the Sabbath, they were now allowed to bear burdens, to take their sick friends to Jesus

All day, they had heard the stories of Jesus speaking with authority, having power over the evil that dwells in man's heart and in this small community, most likely even the story of the Peter's mother-in-law began to circulate

- so at evening they all came with what the Bible calls various diseases
 - various means many different kinds
 - this means that these guys did not just have fevers – maybe some did
 - but then no doubt there were people who were lepers, people who had cancer before they knew what to call it – the diseases in which there were no hope
 - And Jesus does the impossible
- Not only does he have power in His words, power over evil and power over every day things
 - He also has power to deal with what to you seems impossible
 - When the wife says, the marriage is over
 - When the doctor says, its terminal
 - When the boss says, we are going in a different direction
- You may have no answer for what you are facing, but friends once again – the answer is always Jesus!

But how, that sounds good in a platitude, “the answer is always Jesus”

- but how does that work out in day to day reality
 - Sure – Jesus had power in His word
 - Jesus had power over evil
 - Jesus had power over the everyday and the impossible
- But how – how did He have such power, How did he always seem in such control when I am so not in control of my life - but how

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The Secret to His Strength & the Key to ours

Mark 1:35-39

- how did He have it together, how did He seem to have power in every situation – How did He always seem to be in control

- I suggest to you, because it was His custom that every morning He would get up, He would find a quiet place, to have a quiet heart and talk things over with His Father in Heaven

Now you might say, I don't know about that – this is just one verse, how do we know this was something that was daily important to Jesus

- well prophecy for one
 - Isaiah, that great old testament prophet who had much to say about how Messiah would be and how He would die
 - Passages like Isaiah 53 are so much about Christ it is amazing
- Well Isaiah 50 is another one of those prophecies of Isaiah about Messiah about Jesus
 - It's the one in which Isaiah says, "I gave my back to those who struck me and my cheeks to those who plucked out my beard" – clearly Messianic in nature
 - Well just a verse before, Isaiah also speaking prophetically of Messiah said...

“The Lord has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to hear as the learned. The Lord has opened My ear, and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away from Him.” – Isaiah 50:4-5

- Isaiah says, the Messiah will, morning by morning, open His ear up to God's Word and pour out His heart to the Lord's heart in prayer
 - Morning by morning

And see and notice Jesus had to work to find a quiet place

- He had to get up early
 - He had to leave the hustle and bustle of the town
 - And there maybe on a hillside overlooking the town and the sea of Galilee, Jesus poured out His heart to God and opened up His ear to God's Word

And friends I am convinced, this is it

- This is why Jesus was calm and collected
 - This was why Jesus seemed so in control
 - This is why Jesus had power in His Word
 - Power over evil
 - Power over the simple and the impossible situations of life

And to me this is good news, because this means I don't have to be God to defeat Satan, like Jesus I just need to be with Him

- it has to be a priority
 - it may take some effort on your part like Jesus
- You may have to get up early – my wife – 5:30 everyday – why – because she likes getting up that early – no, because by 6:30 our home is a zoo

What do you need to do to get a quiet place and quiet heart

- maybe get up earlier, I can't, you can, go to bed earlier
 - my wife is in bed by 10 and if I am not there to be a bad influence upon her, its 9 or 9:30 – but I'll miss my favorite show

- Hey – that might not be a bad idea either – anything the networks think is too risky' to hold until after nine, you shouldn't be watching anyway – go to bed
- Maybe you have to leave the house early for work and pull off the road for 20 minutes or grab some coffee for a half an hour
 - Do what you have to do to make it a priority

Somehow we think in this day and age that something that requires discipline is legalism and bondage and so we feel more mature because we are not bound by that bondage of being in the Word and spending time in prayer morning by morning

- we are not into the bondage that Jesus was into
 - We are so mature
 - Oh precious – no, you are so foolish
 - You have let the enemy rip you off

I am glad I have some disciplines in my life, they don't make life harder, they make it easier

- I am a legalist about brushing my teeth in the morning
 - I don't get up and think – oh do I have time, that will take 3 minutes and approximately 2 quarts and 14 cents a quarts – that's 28 cents plus 3 minutes and I am going to wear out at least 4 bristles and I may eventually have to buy a new tooth brush, I just know?
- No – you just do it – and you and everyone around you is blessed

We say – I just don't know if I want to put that pressure on my kids to have a devotional life

- I mean won't that drive them away from having a devotional life, I just want it for themselves
 - What? – I mean it might if you are a giant hypocrite – if you don't read your Bible, if you don't pray, yet you say to your kids – you better read, you better pray
 - Then yes, it will drive your kids away – but it won't be the discipline of morning by morning opening up your ear and your heart to God
 - It will be by your hypocrisy

But I want my kids to do a lot of things – I want them to make their beds in the morning, I want them to brush their teeth, apply a little deodorant

- I want them to eat vegetables, and fruits
 - I don't want them to play video games for, what the average – 5 hours a day – Yeah no, not in my house
- I want them to have some discipline – and I don't wait for them to want to make their beds, to want to brush their teeth or eat good stuff or turn off the TV
 - Because that will never happen

So I as a parent say – hey – you are going to make your bed, you are going to brush your teeth, you are going to eat that apple and you are going to turn off the TV

- and yes – you are going to sit next to Mom and Dad and open up your ear, morning by Morning to the Word and the heart of God

I am not trying to get legalistic, but do you want power when you speak, over evil, over everyday and impossible

- You want to speak with power – you know I often think how ridiculous that my words are suppose to covey the power of the gospel

But I was thinking - have you ever talked to someone about your favorite song and they say, I don't know, can you hum it and you hum and whistle and yet the human brain can translate that into bass and lead guitar with vocals – and someone says, yeah I know that song

- Well so too – we share the words, which are only sounds, but if I have had time with the Father, then His Spirit changes my humming words into power in your ears – and that power is available for all of us
 - As morning by morning – we open up our hearts

I want power over evil – but how is it going to happen

- how am I going to turn my eyes upon Jesus, how am I going to follow Him and let Him make me become?
 - morning by morning, morning by morning

I want power over the everyday situations

- so when do I cast my cares upon him, knowing He cares for me
 - morning by morning
- how do I know He cares for me
 - the Bible tells me so – morning by morning

I want power over the impossible

- so when do I pour out my broken and hopeless heart and begin to develop faith?
 - Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God
 - Morning by Morning
 - Morning by Morning