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Now as Mark continues to work his way through the Gospel story of the life of Jesus Christ, we find Jesus near His hometown teaching in the synagogue. You see **Jesus** was a **teacher**, He was always and ever seeking to educate the people about God and His Kingdom. But Jesus wasn't just any teacher, He was God in the flesh, the Son of God come to earth to rescue us from ourselves. This He largely did by teaching us about our **greatest need** in the world, our **alienation from God** because of our sin and **God's grace** and **forgiveness** and His solutions to our problems. He taught us **who God was** and therefore **who we are**. Jesus was an amazing teacher and when He speaks we recognize His words as transcendent and profound. We read, **"21 And they went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and began to teach. 22 And they were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."** People were amazed when heard the wisdom that came from Jesus, but not only this but His authority and mighty power over Satan and demons, and His ability to free people who were tormented by them. Mark writes, **"23 And just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, 24 saying, "What do we have to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are — the Holy One of God!" 25 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" 26 And throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice, and came out of him."** See here in His great mercy with a word Jesus casts out a demon from a man who was possessed and tormented. **"27 And they were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him."** You see Jesus amazing power to do miracles amazed people in His day, and it should amaze us today, for no man has ever existed in history like Jesus the Christ, the Son of God! He is a man of amazing authority and power and mercy toward all who are hurting and oppressed. And so the story goes... **"28 And immediately the news about Him went out everywhere into all the surrounding district of Galilee."** Jesus was becoming famous quickly, and He was causing quite a stir for people wondered who He was and why He was here.

Now as Jesus has entered His **very public ministry** let us see that He has authority to call people to follow Him and learn His way of life and be forgiven through

Him, but also that He has **power over** the unseen realm of **Satan** and **demons**. Jesus has power over things that plague us against which **we are powerless**, yes even **Satan** himself. And these demons know exactly who Jesus is and what authority He has. The demon spoke through the man, **“he cried out, 24 saying, “What do we have to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are — the Holy One of God!”** Yes they know this is the **Promised One** who God would send to deliver His people and overcome all His enemies and save the world and bring it under the rule and authority of God’s Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is at hand in the Person of the King, and He now displays His **great authority** and power over **every realm** including sickness and disease, as Jesus had power to heal people and often gave Himself to healing those who were sick.

Mark 1:29-31 - 29 And immediately after they had come out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever; and immediately they spoke to Him about her. 31 And He came to her and raised her up, taking her by the hand, and the fever left her, and she waited on them. NASB

See here how Peter and Andrew knew Jesus was powerful and so they sought His help for their friends. It says here **“Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever; and immediately they spoke to Him about her.”** And surely Jesus was willing to help her and heal her. **“31 And He came to her and raised her up, taking her by the hand, and the fever left her, and she waited on them.”** Wow! Her healing was so complete that she got up and began to wait on them. Notice in these verses how friends loved their families enough to go and **tell Jesus about them**, and to ask for His help in healing them and caring for them. What a lesson this is today for us to go to Jesus and tell Him about our loved ones who are hurting. Surely, He will be willing to do something to help them if we ask Him with faith. Consider, just **who is this man** who has **power** to cast out demons and **heal sick people** with a word? Now all these amazing signs that Jesus had done has created quite a stir, and **Jesus** is becoming **famous** for this. And people who believed that Jesus was powerful were concerned enough to go and tell their own loved ones about Him and call them to **come to Jesus for healing**.

Mark 1:32-34 - 32 And when evening had come, after the sun had set, they began bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed. 33 And the whole city had gathered at the door. 34 And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was. NASB

And see how willing Jesus is to heal people and meets their needs, for all who will come to him and ask. **“33 And the whole city had gathered at the door.”** Even when they flock to Jesus He has power to heal them all! Mark writes, **“34 And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was.”** It didn’t matter what the disease was, or what kind of demon was oppressing them, Jesus has power over demons and sickness that is inexhaustible. He is the God-man who is here to set people free and to give them life and care for their needs. Now get this, all this power that Jesus has over our **physical problems** is to show us that He is the man with answer to our **deepest spiritual problems**, and this is why He was not only healing all the people, but calling them to **“Repent and Believe the Gospel.”** And even though Jesus was the Son of God, indeed He was One with the Father, yet **He was still a man**, and would get weary and needed rest and to seek for refuge and power from God in prayer, yet He was a relentless preacher of the Gospel.

Mark 1:35-39 - 35 And in the early morning, while it was still dark, He arose and went out and departed to a lonely place, and was praying there. 36 And Simon and his companions hunted for Him; 37 and they found Him, and said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." 38 And He said to them, "Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, in order that I may preach there also; for that is what I came out for." 39 And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons. NASB

Jesus message and His power was amazing and people wanted to flock to Him which was a good thing. But Jesus message was of such profound importance, that it needed to be spread abroad. And so Jesus tells His disciples, let’s take this Gospel beyond. **“38 And He said to them, "Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, in order that I may preach there also; for that is what I came out for.”** You see Jesus concern was for everyone to hear about His freedom and power that He gives to people, so He showed the disciples that the Gospel needed to be preached everywhere. See here how He began to spread the Gospel in the entire surrounding area. **“39 And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons.”** So Jesus continued to go and to preach. Let us not forget that **Jesus is a preacher**, and He has a **message** that is **urgent** and must be preached to all the people. But He is also a Savior and we see His mighty power to save in all the amazing miracles and healings that he performed. Shouldn’t He still be famous today, and isn’t His message still urgent? And Jesus is so willing to heal those who will come to Him and ask!

Mark 1:40-42 - 40 And a leper came to Him, beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying to Him, "If You are willing, You can make me clean." 41 And moved with compassion, He stretched out His hand, and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." 42 And immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed. NASB

See here how Jesus expressed His willingness to help those who will come and humble themselves before Him. Mark writes **“a leper came to Him, beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying to Him, "If You are willing, You can make me clean."** Jesus indeed saw the man’s faith, having come to Jesus and falling down on his knees before Him and asking for help. To this man Jesus replies, **"I am willing; be cleansed."** **42 And immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.**” And so it is that Jesus is willing to heal all who will humble themselves and seek Him for the healing we so desperately need. This does not mean that it is always God’s will to heal physical diseases or correct difficult life situations, as He often has greater purposes in allowing us to remain in suffering or difficulty. But surely the Lord will save and spiritually heal all who call upon Him in truth (Ps 145:18). But even if He does not heal your physical disease, which may be the very thing that drives you to Him, He surely will heal your **spiritual disease**. We are all sick with sin and sore with struggles and trials and bitter situations in our lives. And **Jesus has power over them all**. And here is a great lesson from Mark, Jesus has power over severe disease with a spoken word! Surely He is the Anointed One of God and He has authority over sickness!

Mark 1:43-45 - 43 And He sternly warned him and immediately sent him away, 44 and He said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a testimony to them." 45 But he went out and began to proclaim it freely and to spread the news about, to such an extent that Jesus could no longer publicly enter a city, but stayed out in unpopulated areas; and they were coming to Him from everywhere. NASB

Now Jesus was concerned for this leper whom He had cleansed, as lepers were to be publicly ostracized so as to quarantine the disease. So that the man could be also **restored socially** and also be **obedient** to the **Word**, Jesus tells the man to go show Himself to the priest. **“43 And He sternly warned him and immediately sent him away, 44 and He said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a testimony to them.”** Once the priest recognized the man has

been cleansed, he can once again become a functioning member of society. But something else is happening here as Jesus tells the leper, **“44 See that you say nothing to anyone.”** One remarkable thing that happened during Jesus ministry was that He was so famous He had to try and **manage His popularity**, for people began to flock to Him and this would keep Him from being able to travel abroad and have access to everyone. So He would warn those who He was healing to be quiet, also the demons, He would try to silence them (v-1:24, 34, 44). This is known by many as the **“Messianic Secret,”** that Jesus would try to keep people quiet about who He was and what He was doing. This is probably because He recognized that if His popularity spread to quickly, the **cross** might come **sooner than planned**. But it also proves that He wasn't some revolutionary seeking popularity for sake of Himself, and He couldn't be accused by those in authority as one seeking to gather an army, or **organize a revolt**. But even more, the crowds would often hinder Jesus preaching and ministry, and it made it very difficult to continue in ministry. Therefore, Jesus would often tell them to be quiet. But that didn't keep people quiet about Jesus. He was so amazing and merciful that people just couldn't be quiet but would go about singing the praises of Jesus wherever they went. **“45 But he went out and began to proclaim it freely and to spread the news about, to such an extent that Jesus could no longer publicly enter a city, but stayed out in unpopulated areas; and they were coming to Him from everywhere.”** Well this turned out to be a real problem, so Jesus could no longer go into the cities and heavily populated areas, so He would stay out in the countryside and smaller towns, and yet even there they would seek Him out.

Who is this amazing man with these amazing miraculous powers and this amazing authority? His name is Jesus the Son of God, the Savior of the world!

2:1 - And when He had come back to Capernaum several days afterward, it was heard that He was at home. **2** And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room, even near the door; and He was speaking the word to them. **3** And they came, bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four men. **4** And being unable to get to Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had dug an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic was lying. **5** And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." **6** But there were some of the scribes sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, **7** "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?" **8** And immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves, said to them, "Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts? **9** "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Arise, and take up your pallet and walk'? **10** "But in order that