Radiant Church, April 25, 2018

Mike Rydman

**King Jesus: A New Authority**

**Mark 1:21-45**

Mark 1:21-22 *and they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes*

The word “authority” literally means “out of the original stuff”

It’s also the root word that gives us the word “author”

How did this authority impact the presentation and reception of his teaching?

A different kind of authority, not like that given and exercised by the religious leaders

He did not evoke Moses or some rabbi’s authority; he evoked his own authority

Since Jesus himself had been led out into the wilderness to do battle against Satan’s temptations, why didn’t he then lead his new disciples out into the wilderness as well?

Instead, he leads them to the synagogue. He knows the battle against the forces of darkness can and will just as easily take place in church - and just like people who cling to their traditions, demons also hope the Church doesn’t change

With this authority, what did he teach? That the Kingdom was coming

The priests and scribes didn’t teach that. They taught traditions.

The priests and scribes taught what they hoped would cause the people to remain loyal to old things, loyal to the authority of the priests and scribes.

Jesus came teaching a new thing, a new kingdom, one that would force even the priests and scribes to learn a new message or else die under the terms of the old

The same is true for us

Mark 1:23-28 *and immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” And at once his fame spread everywhere, throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.*

Why is it recognized by the witnesses as a new teaching? Is it because it comes with authority?

Does the powerful demonstration evidence the authority? Sure. His Kingdom

includes authority over the physical world. The religious leaders didn’t have

that!

And…we see the intersection of the physical world and the spiritual world

But, this is also a question of emphasis

Instead of laws and traditions, Jesus spoke of Kingdom and the nearness of God

A thousand years before Christ, King David spoke of kingdom, not his but God’s Kingdom

Psalm 145:10-13 *all your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you! They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations*

Mark wants his readers to see the comparison of King Jesus to King David.

Both were anointed for their kingly reigns: David by Samuel, Jesus baptized by John and anointed by the Holy Spirit

1 Samuel 16:13 *then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst*

*of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day*

*forward*

Mark 1:10 *and when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the*

*heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove*

And both early on dealt with evil, even demons, unclean spirits

David with King Saul, and Jesus with people in the Synagogue

Mark wants his readers to see Jesus as the promised descendent of David

But also to see Jesus as a “better David,” a more complete and effective

David

Because Jesus comes with complete authority

The unclean spirit/s recognize Jesus’ authority and role in the Kingdom

They knew he had come to defeat them

And at Calvary they would no longer have authority over Creation

Continuing influence, to be sure; but no lasting, eternal authority

Jesus died on the cross to remove the penalty for sin

Jesus, through His Word and Spirit are removing the power of sin

When Jesus comes back, He will finally remove the presence of sin

Jesus taught words of healing

God’s loving authority in Jesus

To heal anyone or anything, the healer has to have authority over the

disease/injury

He didn’t come to mankind simply to heal them physically. The physical healings were a physical sign, demonstration and example of his healing us from our sin.

Even a physically healed person eventually dies, but the soul healed by Jesus

never dies

He didn’t come just to release demon-possessed people from bad demons, but did so in order to show his eternal authority over the demons and the Satan those demons work for.

The Kingdom of Jesus is pitted against the forces of evil, death and destruction

Evil’s downfall begins here and evil’s authority and control ends at the Cross

As the Body of Christ, do we see ourselves in the same battle?

And can we also speak and act representing Jesus’ authority?

Seeing the same saving power of God unleashed

And recognizing heightened opposition from the forces of darkness

Mark 1:29-34 *and immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon’s mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.*

The term describing Jesus as “lifting up” Simon’s mother-in-law is the same term as to “raise”

This is a restoration. This is a resurrection preview, in Mark’s mind of Jesus’s resurrection

But ‘raising up” is also the term Jesus Himself used to describe how He would be crucified – He would be “raised” to the cross so we could be raised from sin and death

Is serving evidence of healing? For the mother-in-law it was evidence of her healing

Being raised for service to God is a theme Mark carries through the whole book

The town’s people brought “all” who were sick and oppressed. They came for the healings, not necessarily for Jesus Himself

We are too easily drawn to the hand of God, while not so much to the face of

God. But when we seek the face of God, we also get the hand of God.

The demons again know who Jesus is. And Jesus is getting famous. Instead of sticking around to read about himself in the morning papers, he gets up early and leaves

Mark 1:35-39 *and rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is looking for you.” And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.” And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.*

Jesus thinks it important to pray. Why?

The source and conduit of his power and authority

Because of the opposition

Because he needed a God-given sense of direction and inner strength

Because he was filled with the Holy Spirit, and saw communion with God the

Father as essential

So Jesus came to preach? Is the preaching the announcement of the Kingdom, or the commencement of the Kingdom?

Mark 1:40-45 *and a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.” Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, “I will; be clean.” And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, 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 proof to them.” But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places and people were coming to him from every quarter.*

The leper expresses faith in Jesus’ power and authority

Jesus responds with pity, and healing

Jesus “sternly charged him.” Why?

Don’t talk to people. Why? The townspeople will be suspicious

Go straight away to the priest (who is local)

And offer sacrifices of thanksgiving (the next time he’s in Jerusalem)

As a proof: follow the official system. Get the official clean bill of health

Don’t talk about your cleansing; prove your cleansing! Be seen as clean!

People forced to come out to Jesus in the wilderness from all directions

Even though Jesus, as God had come to them

Was Jesus concerned about the wrong kind of notice?

The news about Jesus leaked out anyway

What Jesus said and did, like healing someone from leprosy, invited conflict.

Previously, only the priests “healed” anyone of anything

And Jesus wasn’t even from the tribe of Levi, the tribe the priests came from

Jesus shows up and does the healing quicker and better than they could ever

hope to do

Here’s another parallel with King David

David didn’t tell Saul he had been anointed to be king before he killed Goliath

Almost like it was a secret

Jesus did not necessarily trumpet his kingship, his sovereignty. He proved it

He announced the Kingdom; he proved He was the King

People would and did react:

People would get angry

Is he really a loyal Jew?

Can his message about the Kingdom of God really be true?

Can we believe him?

Isn’t he dangerous?

Hasn’t he gone too far going up against the religious system?

Is he going to mess up our comfortable life as we know it?

Like the questions we ask of Jesus:

Can his Word be trusted?

Can we face and accept the cost of being Kingdom people?

Can he really empower us to bring the good news and power of Jesus’ healing

power to the world?

Make no mistake about it: Jesus came as King

Later on, in Acts, the writer Luke mentions that the Church (the followers of the King) was twice compared to militaristic liberations movements (Acts 5:36-37), once mistaken for a terrorist group (Acts 21:18) and once accused of sedition from the government (Acts 17:7.)

The people who were not followers of Jesus saw his followers as clearly following a king

As Christians we follow a King, a worthy and all-powerful, all-triumphant King

Not a nice guy, not a good moral teacher

Not a good example to follow

Not a well-intentioned martyr

But a King, a sovereign who has purchased our allegiance with his own blood

This is the King we recognize and celebrate in going to the Table this morning…