

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. (v10)

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence & continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken & speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see & know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Mark 1:21-28

²¹[Jesus & his disciples] went to Capernaum; & when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue & taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, & not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and 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." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, & come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him & crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, & they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, & they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit

1. What is the point of the so-called "messianic secret" whereby Jesus prevents others from "testifying" to his powers (v24)? In other words, how do we ultimately recognize his power? *See 1:34, 40-45, 3:11-12, 4:11, 7:31-37, 8:22-30, 9:2-9, 10:45, 15:33-39; see also John 6:25-27, 16:13; Small Catechism: Creed II available <bookofconcord.org>*
2. How does St. John explain the authority of Jesus that crowds grasp? Notice that Jesus never needs to use the phrase "Thus sayeth the LORD" like the Old Testament prophets. *See John 1:14, 3:35, 5:17-47, 6:37-56, 8:16-49, 10:15-38; 11:41-42, 12:26-50, 13:1-3, 14:6-31, 15:10-24, 16:3-32, 17:1-25*

EACH OTHER- Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ

3. Certain modern "charismatic" groups place primary importance on the performance of miracles as "proof" of authentic faithfulness. How does St. Paul address authentic faithfulness? *See John 6:28-29; Romans 6:3-5, 8:5, 15, 13:14; 1 Corinthians 12:27--13:13; Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 4:24; 1 Peter 3:21*
4. Name 5 well-known people you consider holy. What makes you consider them so? Next name 5 people that you know in your own everyday life that you consider holy. Again, what makes you consider them so? Now remember what was said over you in Baptism: You are sealed with the Holy Spirit & marked with the Cross of Christ forever (*cf. SC: Creed III*). How do these 10 people encourage you in your own holiness? How can your holiness encourage others (and who)?

NEIGHBORS- Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters

5. Non-believers & former-believers often criticize the Church for failing to be holy; sometimes according to unfair, unreasonable, or contrived measures, other times according to clear failures & unrepentance. How do the practices of self-examination with the 10 Commandments (& their explanations) & confession & absolution promote holiness, honesty, & humility among believers? How is this compelling to others? *See SC: 10 Commandments, Office of the Keys/ Confession*
6. What do the following scriptures add to the sermon theme that Jesus' own authority is all we need for the holiness he gives us to affect the everyday lives of those around us for good? *See Matthew 5:14-16, 21-47, 7:12; Luke 10:25-37, 12:11-12; Romans 12:2, 9-21; 1 Corinthians 7:12-16; Galatians 5:15-26; 1 Peter 2:11-23, 3:8-17; James 2:1-17*

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2021; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Series: Everyday Holiness

01.31.21
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Permission

*As the Body of Christ, we have Jesus' permission & authority
for our holiness to affect the everyday lives of others*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: [A man with an unclean spirit cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?...But Jesus rebuked him...]
And the unclean spirit, convulsing him & crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ([v23]v26)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light; for those who sat in the shadow of death light has dawned. (*Matthew 4:16*)

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2021; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included.

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. (v10)

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence & continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken & speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see & know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Mark 1:21-28

²¹[Jesus & his disciples] went to Capernaum; & when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue & taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, & not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and 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." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, & come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him & crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, & they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, & they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit

1. What is the point of the so-called "messianic secret" whereby Jesus prevents others from "testifying" to his powers (v24)? In other words, how do we ultimately recognize his power? *See 1:34, 40-45, 3:11-12, 4:11, 7:31-37, 8:22-30, 9:2-9, 10:45, 15:33-39; see also John 6:25-27, 16:13; Small Catechism: Creed II available <bookofconcord.org>*
2. How does St. John explain the authority of Jesus that crowds grasp? Notice that Jesus never needs to use the phrase "Thus sayeth the LORD" like the Old Testament prophets. *See John 1:14, 3:35, 5:17-47, 6:37-56, 8:16-49, 10:15-38; 11:41-42, 12:26-50, 13:1-3, 14:6-31, 15:10-24, 16:3-32, 17:1-25*

EACH OTHER- Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ

3. Certain modern "charismatic" groups place primary importance on the performance of miracles as "proof" of authentic faithfulness. How does St. Paul address authentic faithfulness? *See John 6:28-29; Romans 6:3-5, 8:5, 15, 13:14; 1 Corinthians 12:27--13:13; Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 4:24; 1 Peter 3:21*
4. Name 5 well-known people you consider holy. What makes you consider them so? Next name 5 people that you know in your own everyday life that you consider holy. Again, what makes you consider them so? Now remember what was said over you in Baptism: You are sealed with the Holy Spirit & marked with the Cross of Christ forever (*cf. SC: Creed III*). How do these 10 people encourage you in your own holiness? How can your holiness encourage others (and who)?

NEIGHBORS- Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters

5. Non-believers & former-believers often criticize the Church for failing to be holy; sometimes according to unfair, unreasonable, or contrived measures, other times according to clear failures & unrepentance. How do the practices of self-examination with the 10 Commandments (& their explanations) & confession & absolution promote holiness, honesty, & humility among believers? How is this compelling to others? *See SC: 10 Commandments, Office of the Keys/ Confession*
6. What do the following scriptures add to the sermon theme that Jesus' own authority is all we need for the holiness he gives us to affect the everyday lives of those around us for good? *See Matthew 5:14-16, 21-47, 7:12; Luke 10:25-37, 12:11-12; Romans 12:2, 9-21; 1 Corinthians 7:12-16; Galatians 5:15-26; 1 Peter 2:11-23, 3:8-17; James 2:1-17*

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2021; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included.

Permission

*As the Body of Christ, we have Jesus' permission & authority
for our holiness to affect the everyday lives of others*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: [A man with an unclean spirit cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?...But Jesus rebuked him...]

And the unclean spirit, convulsing him & crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ([v23]v26)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light; for those who sat in the shadow of death light has dawned. (*Matthew 4:16*)