

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 Matthew 16:16-17; John 6:25-27, 16:13; Small Catechism: Creed II available bookofconcord.org*
2. What connections do you find with *Deuteronomy 18:15-20*? What makes it a good fit for reading with this gospel lesson? *Hint: look for themes, parallel ideas, inversions, reversals, similarities, extensions, metaphors, actions, vocabulary, grammar, etc. See Matthew 16:13-14*

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

3. Consider the offense caused by Jesus & the gospel & what it leads to (1:21; 2:5-12, 16-17, 18-19, 23-28, 3:1-5, & 3:6). Think carefully about how God's mercy & wholeness in everyday life lead to opposition by those captive to & getting by within "the system." Names at least 3 times you have been upset by God's lovingkindness.
4. Now, what would it take to for others to be upset by you as an agent of God's grace, mercy & love in their everyday lives? (This question is *not* about you "standing up" for or against something.) *See Matthew 5:1-12*

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

5. Many, including Martin Luther, have noted that evil hates laughter & song. It hates even more being the "butt of the joke". While an exorcism is likely out of your reach, laughing & singing are not. Who needs your laughter & song, both offensively & defensively. *Note: this is the sports sense of those words, not the manners sense. See Psalms 2:4, 37:13, 52:6-7, 59:8, 126:2; Ephesians 5:11, 19*
6. A gap continues to exist between those amazed by God's things & those amazed by his salvation for them. Who do you know that is still in the outer realm of wonder & enjoyment at God but not yet with us developing into fully devoted followers of Jesus? Make a list of 3-5 people & commit through Easter to praying for them daily & that God will use you in their lives.

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Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

01.28.24

Series: God's Grandeur

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

The Holy Spirit at Work in our Lives

Our Amazement

*The Holy Spirit prevails over the many spirits drawing us away from God
& equips us to resist the evil touching our lives.*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: They were all amazed, & they kept on asking one another,
“What is this? A new teaching—with authority!” (v27)

-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*)

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