

Title: ENCOUNTERING SPIRITUAL POWER
Text: MARK 1:16-28

Teacher: TOM NELSON

Last Week: Jesus' Proclaims His Good News Message

The kingdom of God has come near!

Repent and believe the Gospel!

This Week: Jesus' Begins His "Good News" Ministry

By the Sea of Galilee (Mark 1:16-20)

Follow Me!

At a Synagogue in Capernaum (Mark 1:21-28)

An astonishing teacher

An encounter with "evil"

A restoration to wholeness

Is the Spiritual Realm Real?

Avoiding the extremes

Are We Following Jesus?

- 1) Does Jesus have ultimate authority in my life?
- 2) Am I learning from Jesus how to see the world?

CONVERSATION STARTER

- On a daily basis, who are the authorities you run into? Why are they an authority? How do we tend to view authorities in our culture? Why do we view them this way?
- Read Mark 1:16-20. Why do you think Simon and Andrew immediately “left their nets” and began to follow Jesus. What do you think Jesus means when he says he will make Simon and Andrew “fishers of men”? What is the significance of Mark pointing out that James and John left their father Zebedee in the boat with his hired servants?
- Read Mark 1:21-28. What is unexpected about the time and location of Jesus’ action in the synagogue? How was Jesus’ teaching different than that of the scribes? What is the significance of the spirit calling Jesus, “the holy one of God”? Why do you think Jesus commanded the spirit to be silent?
- Read the excerpt below. Do you agree with Willard that knowledge is what gives a person authority to act, direct, and teach? Why or why not? In what ways do you see knowledge as the prerequisite for authority in your own job or profession? Do you think spiritual or moral knowledge is similar or different? Why or why not? What sorts of consequences have you seen in your own life that stem from a lack of knowledge?
- What authority does Jesus have in your life? How do we demonstrate Jesus’ authority in our lives, both individually and corporately? What areas of your life need to come under Jesus’ authority?

EXCERPT FROM: *Knowing Christ Today*

BY: Dallas Willard

Knowledge, but not mere belief or commitment, confers on its possessor an authority or right – even a responsibility – to act, to direct action, to establish and supervise policy, and to teach. Circumstances will modify this from case to case, but it is in general true. Knowledge also confers upon belief and action a stability and communicability that other sources of action do not. This is because knowledge involves truth: truth secured by experience, method, and evidence that is generally available. And that explains why we want leaders, professionals, and others we rely upon to know what they are doing, not just to believe or feel strongly about it. We trust them on the assumption or the hope that they know their area of expertise, even if we are mistaken about them in a given case. Beliefs, commitments, feelings, traditions, and power do not confer on them the same right and authority as knowledge does, even if those things sometimes happen to coincide with the correct outcome. We are still aware that those sources of action might have been wrong and that they lack any basis that ensures their rightness – especially, any basis that can be shared and openly evaluated in fair inquiry by those affected. Clearly, our belief (trust, confidence, faith) in those who guide or help us assumes that they have knowledge. If they lack the knowledge assumed, they are disqualified, even if they remain in a position of service or power.