

the spirit within the man, his words might well have been for all the people in the Synagogue. Silence would have allowed for everyone to focus on what Jesus was doing rather than being paralyzed by the chaos. Focus is the reason why we turn down the car radio when you're trying to pay attention to your destination. How do you focus when life gets chaotic? How do you deal with distraction in your work, family life and other relationships? Meditate on these questions and write your reflections here.

Thursday, March 12

Read Mark 1:21-28. The second command from Jesus to the unclean spirit is to "come out of him!" This is a command to free the man, to let go of him. The man was then freed to be who and what God intended him to be. What about you? An important part of Lent is examining our lives so that we may rid ourselves of what it is that separates us from our God and others; in other words, it is a time to recognize and confess our sins. Rather than beat ourselves up for breaking the religious rules and laws, look at the word SIN as the acronym Soul In Need. What does your soul need in this Season of Lent? There is plenty of Lent left to make some changes in your life! What would that look like for you? What changes would you like to make, beyond this Season of Lent? Prayerfully consider these questions and write your thoughts here.

Friday, March 13

The difference between the teachings of the Scribes and Jesus is the difference between following law and rules and following Christ toward a deeper relationship with God. How is your Lenten Journey accomplishing that goal? Think about your progress and write your ideas here. Be blessed!

Message Notes March 8, 2026

Christ Challenged! *The Superficial Scribes**

- I. The enemies of Jesus, at least in part, shaped the _____, the ministry and the _____ of Jesus.
 - A. Scribes in the Bible were professional, highly _____, and influential _____, teachers, and _____.
 1. They _____ and meticulously _____ Scripture.
 2. Of the ____ times scribes are mentioned in our New Testament, ____ times they are mentioned along with others who _____ Jesus.
 - B. It's important to know that scribes were not merely _____ workers but experts on Jewish _____, _____, and theology.
- II. In our scripture for today, Jesus' _____ is growing.
 - A. Jesus began to teach in Capernaum and people were astonished that this Rabbi from the _____ was teaching with _____!
 1. Mark adds "and not as the _____."
 2. Jesus, in contrast, seems to give witness that we should act, not simply according to _____, but in response to our God with whom we have a _____.
 - B. We cannot attest to the formal _____ and _____ of Jesus.
 1. I don't believe Jesus' authority simply comes from the fact that he was the _____, the anointed one of God.
 2. Jesus' authority comes from his _____ with our Creator God.

- III. Having Jesus' authority recognized, immediately that authority is firm up by the _____ of Jesus.
- A. that fact immediately becomes apparent when a man with an _____ spirit wanders into the synagogue.
1. A man wandering into a synagogue with an unclean spirit is no doubt an _____ toward Jewish leaders and their adherence to its cleanliness _____.
 2. This would have been a _____ moment during the worship service at that Capernaum Synagogue.
- B. Jesus' command to be silent was for _____.
1. This is a great lesson to us to _____ when chaos erupts.
 2. We need to stop and listen and receive the _____ that only Jesus, with great authority, can give.
- C. Jesus also commanded, "_____ of him" to the unclean spirit.
1. "_____ of him!" - meaning break _____, let _____, get rid of something.
 2. Let go of your craving for worldly _____, a hunger for food that can never truly _____.
 3. _____ and be _____!
 4. What matters is what Jesus did and is doing _____ us and _____ us

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, March 9

The message began with the idea that that the enemies of Jesus, at least in part, shaped the message, the ministry and the mission of Jesus. This should be apparent as Jesus came for the salvation and

wholeness of human beings, created in the image of God. This doesn't mean we're giving credit to those who opposed God for the message, ministry and mission of Jesus the Christ. It is meant recognize that as Christ's followers, our ministry and mission is defined by the ills and misfortunes of our times. As a prophetic voice, Jesus had to speak out against those who opposed him and propagated idea and practices harmful to others and to ourselves. Have you ever been opposed by someone and discovered that opposition shaped your response and perhaps even your future practices? What do you think of these ideas? Meditate on them and write your reflections here.

Tuesday, March 10

Read Mark 1:21-28. Jesus is described as one who taught with authority. That was most likely a surprise to many as Jesus grew up in a small town, in a poorer area where many of the residents were likely to be servants and laborers. Galileans even had an accent that would inform people of their origins. Still, Jesus taught with authority and his teaching was deemed new. Of course, mark mentioned that Jesus's teaching was not like that of the Scribes. Scribes would have been more interested in the letter of the law rather than the intentions of the law. They believe that adherence to the law was a way of honoring God rather than recognizing an actual relationship with God. Pastor and author, Timothy Keller is often cited for the quote "People are messy; therefore, relationships will be messy. Don't be surprised by messiness." That would imply that if we're in a relationship with God, our relationship with God can be messy! Contemplate that idea for a moment. What do you think? Write your thoughts here.

Wednesday, March 11

Read Mark 1:21-28. Although this passage doesn't mention it, the scene in which Jesus heals the man with an unclean spirit was likely chaotic. Fear might have grips some in attendance, while others might have fled from the Synagogue. When Jesus rebuked