

Title: Greater than your challenges (Mark 1:21-28)

Pastor: Hennie Swart

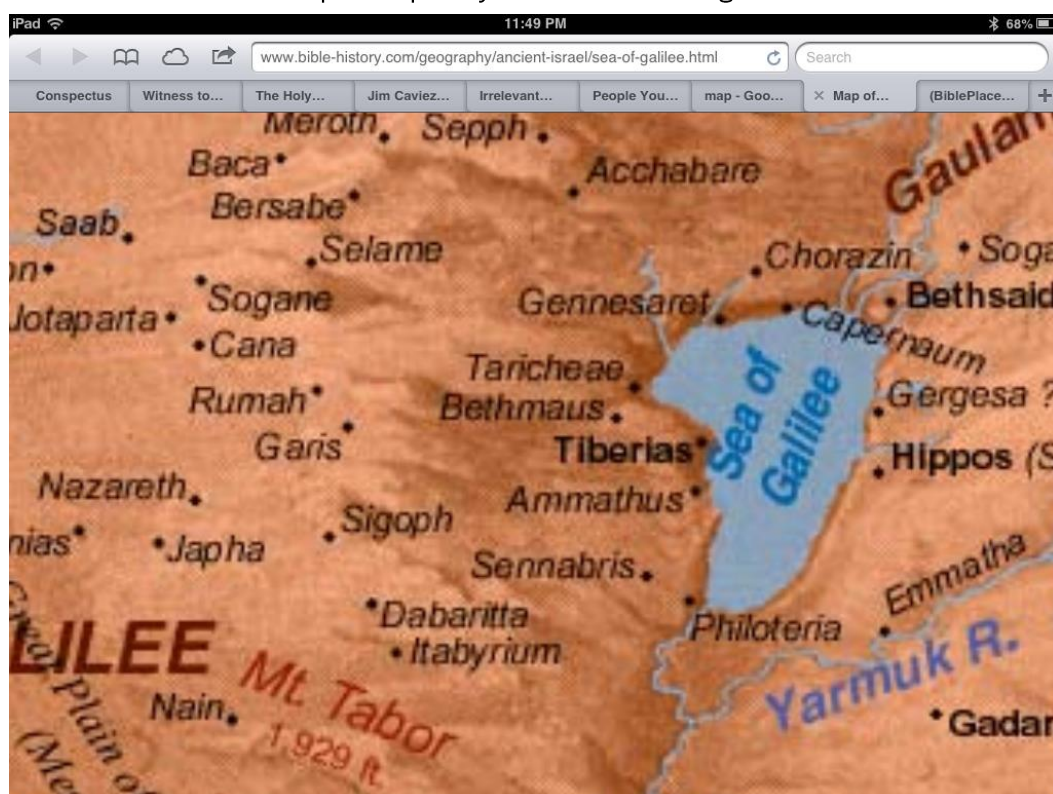
Date: 26 May 2013

Time: 9:00am

Introduction

- What does the text mean?
- Three 'situations in life':
 1. Jesus and His audience
 2. The evangelist and his audience
 3. Us
- Shangoma who lost his power after prayer.
- When you're unhappy about something you go the one with the authority to fix it.
- Power vs. Authority (exousia).
- Three sections:
 - A. Jesus' authority in teaching (1:21-22).
 - B. Jesus' authority over unclean spirits (1:23-26).
 - C. The people's response (1:27-28).

Mark 1:21-28 ²¹They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²² The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. ²³ Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit, cried out, ²⁴ “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” ²⁵ “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” ²⁶ The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. ²⁷ The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him.” ²⁸ News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.



Synagogue at Capernaum One Temple, but many synagogues



Authority to teach

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- They were amazed at the content and quality of His teaching.
- The content is called 'new' (1.27) and deals with the Kingdom (1.15).
- They read their traditions into Scripture, but Jesus received the truth from Scripture.
- Possibly only 10% literate.
- Jesus could read!

Teachers of the law

'Teachers of the law' used to teach the Torah in the synagogues; their "prestige reached legendary proportions by the first century, surpassing on occasion that of the high priest." - Edwards

- Both synagogue (1:39; 3:1; 6:2; 12:39; 13:9) and scribe (only one pos ref.) play an oppositional role throughout the gospel of Mark. They are the 'old wineskins' (2:21-22)

The Pharisees and some of the **teachers of the law** who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and 2 saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were "unclean," that is, unwashed. 3 (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. 8 You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men." (Mark 7:1-3; 8)

Sources of Authority

1. Scripture
2. Tradition
3. Reason
4. Experience

Authority over demons

Mark 1:23-26 ²³ Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, ²⁴ “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” ²⁵ “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” ²⁶ The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

- How long had this demon been going to this synagogue?
- The One with the Holy Spirit confronts one with an unclean spirit - comp. confrontation with Satan.
- Jesus uses the same words He will use later to silence the storm.
- Jesus first encounter with Satan's minions is a no-contest!

The people's response

Mark 1:27-28 ²⁷ The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him.” ²⁸ News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

- Jesus has bound the strongman (1:12-13) and can now plunder his house (3:27).
- "Mark's use of [exousia] at the outset of Jesus' public ministry establishes his authority over the highest authorities in both the temporal realm, as represented by the scribes, and the supernatural authorities, as represented by the demon in 1:23ff." - Edwards

Conclusion

- Jesus has authority over all our opponents.
- If we display this authority "in name of Jesus" we will likewise cause Jesus fame to spread.

How to renew your mind

In other words, 'don't just remove, replace.'

- Not just the thoughts, but also the feelings connected to the thoughts.
- Why do we struggle to let go of old thought patterns? - like old shoes... Comfortable

Sample areas for mind renewal

- Origins: Creation vs Evolution
- Marriage: Choosing a partner + expectation in relationship
- Children: Metamorphosis requires a meta-narrative