



Message Discussion Guide Week of February 11, 2024

Message: Power Surge, Part 2: Building Momentum

Key Scriptures: Mark 1:21-34

Preachers: Pastor Tom Parkinson

Message Highlights:

The opening days of Jesus' ministry is a tour de force, as Jesus demonstrates his power, casting out demons, healing various diseases, and teaching with authority. Jesus displayed so much power that it overwhelmed the religious leaders of Israel, causing them to blow a fuse and begin looking for a way to stop Jesus and his ministry.

In order comprehend Jesus' ministry, you must adopt a supernatural worldview, the belief that there is more to reality than we can see with our eyes – that there are spiritual forces at work around us.

- Our modern age of scientific rationalism makes it hard for us to believe anything we cannot prove by science. We read about Jesus' miracles and think, "did they really happen?"
- From the outset, Mark tells us that Jesus came to engage in a battle against spiritual forces. His first conflict is with Satan, who tempts Jesus for 40 days. And after his first sermon in Capernaum, it is a demon (an evil spirit under the command of Satan) who questions Jesus.
- Jesus' ministry wages war with spiritual forces of wickedness that seek to undo God's good plan for creation.

In Capernaum, Jesus taught in the synagogue. His teaching amazed people because of its authority. He did not repeat the same old lessons taught by the teachers of the law.

- His teaching created a power surge that provoked a demon to challenge him. After casting out this demon, the surge spilled into the town where Jesus performed miraculous healings and exorcisms.

When is the last time you were amazed by the teaching of Jesus? More than we need a miracle, we need his proclamation of the kingdom of God. His teaching has the power to free us from the evil powers of this world.

Discussion Questions:

- 1.) Of all the things that Jesus said, what's your favorite? Which sayings of Jesus do you find most memorable? Which do you think have most shaped our world?
- 2.) Do you believe there are spiritual forces at work in the world that we cannot see? What do you believe about the existence of Satan and demons? Have you ever experienced spiritual warfare?
- 3.) Read Mark 1:21-34:
 - a. What is it about Jesus' teaching that amazes people?
 - b. What is the reaction of the demon ("impure spirit") to Jesus? Why does the demon react this way?
 - c. What is the significance of Jesus' physical touch when it comes to his healings?
 - d. How do you think Jesus' healing of Simon's mother-in-law impacted Simon, one of Jesus' first and newest disciples?
 - e. What do you hear in this passage that inspires you? Challenges you? Puzzles you?
- 4.) Read Ephesians 6:1-10
 - a. Do you believe that there is spiritual warfare going on in the world? How can you know?
 - b. What does it mean to put on the armor of God?
- 5.) Should Christians be afraid of Satan and his demons? Why or why not?
- 6.) How does the teaching of Jesus amaze you? In what ways do Jesus' words motivate and inspire your life?
- 7.) What is your primary takeaway from this message?