



**January 15, 2019**

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## **Scripture**

### **Mark 1: 21-28**

Jesus came to Capernaum with his followers,  
and on the sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught.  
The people were astonished at his teaching,  
for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.  
In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit;  
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!"  
Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!"  
The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him.  
All were amazed and asked one another,  
"What is this?  
A new teaching with authority.  
He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him."  
His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Why did Satan scream and yell at Jesus? Because Satan had the ultimate super ego. He deceived himself by thinking he was a god. He was frightened of Jesus' authority over him. But Jesus' authority ranked supreme. All He had to do to take care of Satan was to say, "Quiet!", and that was it. If we dare

claim to be His disciples we are saying that Jesus has authority over us, but do we allow Him to do so? When we pray, "Thy will be done", do we really mean "my will be done"? We must learn that Jesus' teachings, His commandments are not recommendations or suggestions. He is THE authority and as His disciples, we must surrender our lives to His authority. Only then will our lives have meaning.

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## **Food for your Journey**

Some years ago, a young man who wanted to change his life went into a church and sat down in the sanctuary for awhile. He took out a piece of paper and a pencil and began writing down a long list of things that he promised he would do to change his life - a whole page of things - and he signed his name at the bottom and took it up and placed it on the altar, and sat down again in the sanctuary.

As he was sitting there, however, he began to sense the voice of God speaking softly in his own soul. And the more he listened to it, the more he heard God saying to him, "You've done it all wrong. I want you to go back up there and get the piece of paper and tear it up. And then I'll give you another instruction. "

So, the young man got out of his pew and walked up to the altar and did as the Lord told him. And then he went back to sit down in the pew and waited for the Lord to instruct him. It did not happen immediately, but finally the message came through. The Lord said to him, very gently, "Now take a piece of paper and sign your name to it at the bottom and let me fill in all the rest!"

--From Barry P. Boulware

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, You are my Way, my Truth, my Life. Help me to shrink my over-inflated ego and surrender my life to Your direction. You are my Lord and Savior. Amen