

Introduction: To experience Jesus in all His fullness is amazing and overwhelming. There is no human being who has all authority AND is filled with all compassion. No one can teach truth as The One who IS The Truth. No one is able to heal people in body, in soul, and in spirit. Humans need to specialize because their abilities are limited. Jesus can do everything because He is infinite in power, presence, knowledge, LOVE, and everything else. *** In our short passage from The Good News about Jesus through Mark, we are given enough details about who Jesus IS, and all He did and is doing, to make our heads spin. *** With this as our 'big picture', let's now look at the many details in the Gospel portion to see how they fill out the high level praise of the introduction to David's Psalm.

I. Jesus astonished people with authoritative teaching and cast out an unclean spirit to their amazement; then,

He healed Simon's mother-in-law and many townspeople were brought to Him and were healed and delivered. (*Mark 1:21-34*)

- A. In the synagogue on the Sabbath, Jesus astonished people with authoritative teaching; then, He cast an unclean spirit out of a man to the amazement of all. (*Verses 21-28*)
1. They entered Capernaum and at once on the Sabbath, having entered the synagogue, He was teaching, and they were being astonished at His teaching, for He was teaching them as (one) authority having and not as the scribes. (*Verses 21-22*)
Teach in synagogue: Jesus regularly attended Sabbath synagogue worship and He was always teaching people.
Astonished: In Capernaum ('village of comfort') the people were astonished at all His teaching.
Authority: They could sense His teaching had more authority than the trained Levitical scribes.
 2. At once, he was being in their synagogue, man with unclean spirit, and he cried out. (*Verse 23*)
Unclean spirit: Not every Israelite who attended synagogue was fully committed to follow God, just as every church attending confessing Christian today is not necessarily right with God.
 3. Saying, 'What to us and to Thee, Jesus Nazarene ('consecrated', Numbers 6:1-21)? Thou came to destroy us? I have known Thee, Thou are being The Holy One of God'. (*Verse 24*)
Destroy us: The unclean spirit is speaking through the man, calling Jesus consecrated and holy of God. Twice he refers to himself in the plural; but, he, Jesus and Mark use the singular ten times.
 4. He rebuked him, Jesus, saying, 'Thou must be silenced, and thou must come out of him'. (*Verse 25*)
Double command: Jesus does not need testimony of unclean spirits; and, He wants to free the man.
 5. Having thrown him into convulsions, the unclean spirit; and, having cried out with great voice, he came out of him. (*Verse 26*)
Came out: The unclean spirit had to submit to Jesus' authority, but not without a fight. He shook the man and cried out with great sound.
 6. They were all amazed, everyone, to question among themselves, 'What is being this? Teaching new with authority? Even spirits unclean He is commanding; and, they are hearkening to obey Him'. (*Verse 27*)
Amazed: They were being astonished (outside themselves) with Jesus' authoritative teaching. Now they are being amazed at the awesome power Jesus has over unclean spirits.
What's this: Spiritual oppression can break a person more than physical suffering; but, Jesus is demonstrating no one is broken beyond what He can heal!

Jesus has authority to heal all brokenness

7. And it went out, the hearing of Him, at once everywhere, into the whole surrounding region of Galilee. (*Verse 28*)
Hearing: Immediately people heard of what Jesus did; and, the news also quickly spread far and wide.
Application: May we all be powerfully moved by The Person and Work of Jesus so we will tell others about Him, and pray that our words to them will be passed on to still more people.
- B. He went to Simon's house and healed his mother-in-law of a fever; they brought to Him those who were diseased and possessed by demons, and He healed and delivered. (*Verses 29-34*)
1. At once, out of the synagogue having come, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with Jacob and John. (*Verse 29*)
To Simon's house: Notice that, even though Peter was married, his brother lived with him; and, Peter's wife was the hostess of the Sabbath meal for Jesus and His inner circle.
 2. But the mother-in-law of Simon was lying (in bed) being sick of fever; and, at once they are telling Him about her. (*Verse 30*)
Mother-in-law: It is difficult for a family when any member of the family is sick; so, at once, they tell Jesus about Peter's mother-in-law.
 3. Having gone in, He raised her up, having held by the hand; and, it left her, the fever; and, she was caring for them. (*Verse 31*)
Held hand – fever gone: Jesus' healing of her fever involved the personal touch of holding her hand.
She ministered: After being healed, she ministered to them for some time. She was given stamina.
 4. But, having become late, when it set, the sun, they were bringing to Him all those disease having, and those being possessed with demons; and it was being, whole city had been gathered at the door. (*Verses 32-33*)
Many with diseases and demons: As a result of the quick and widespread news of what Jesus was doing, a multitude needing healing in their bodies, souls and spirits were coming to Jesus.
 5. And He healed many diseases having, various illnesses, and demons many, He cast out. (*Verse 34a*)
Multiple healings: As Sabbath ended and a new week began, Jesus healed many diseases, various illnesses, and cast out many demons. Truly, Jesus can heal people of every kind of brokenness.

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6. And not He was allowing them to speak, the demons, because they were knowing Him. (*Verse 34b*)
Demons know: The knowledge the demons had of Jesus was not the knowledge gained by experience of Jesus that affects the heart; but, rather, it was merely head knowledge of facts.

II. Then Jesus was alone in extended prayer before preaching in synagogues; then, out of compassion, He cleansed a leper who begged for cleansing; by all this He shows Himself to be the Redeemer in David's Psalm. (*Mark 1:35-45; Psalm 103:1-5*)

- A. Then Jesus went to a desolate place and was praying; and, Simon and the others searched for and found Him; and, He preached in synagogues casting out demons. (*Mark 1:35-39*)

1. And early morning, still dark exceedingly, having risen up, He went out and He went away to a desolate place, and there He was praying. (*Verse 35*)

Extended pre-dawn prayer: Some three hours before dawn, Jesus went to a desolate place for an extended time of prayer.

Application: May we all learn from Jesus to have extended times of prayer in our lives for power to serve Him in words and deeds.

2. And he searched diligently (for) Him, Simon and those with him; and they found Him and they are saying to Him, 'All are seeking Thee'. (*Verses 36-37*)

Apostles' search: When they woke up, the apostles were searching for Jesus.

People seeking: Finding Him, they informed Him that all the people are seeking Him, presumably because of the healing He was doing.

3. He is saying to them, 'Let us go elsewhere into the neighboring villages that also there I may preach, to this I came forth'. (*Verse 38*)

Go elsewhere: Jesus may have been praying for the strength to complete this preaching tour.

Came to preach: He informed His apostles that His purpose in coming is to preach.

4. He came, preaching in their synagogues in whole of Galilee, and the demons (He was) casting out. (*Verse 39*)

Preached in synagogues: Jesus preached in the synagogues where His people gathered regularly to worship God.

Casting out demons: It seems that some Israelites everywhere in the region of Galilee were broken by demon possession. Part of Jesus' mission was to heal that brokenness.

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B. A leper begged Him for cleansing and He compassionately complied; He told the man to only see the priest, but he preached and spread the word of Jesus. (*Mark 1:40-45*)

1. There is coming to Him, leper, begging Him and kneeling, and saying to Him, 'If Thou may be desiring, Thou are being able me to make clean'. (*Verse 40*)

Leper: Despite what modern skeptics think, this man was a leper!

Faith in His ability: He had total faith in Jesus' ability to make him clean.

Begs Him to be willing: But, he has no sense of entitlement. He begs Jesus to desire to cleanse him.

2. Having been moved with compassion, having put forth His hand, He touched him and is saying, 'I am desiring, thou must be made clean'. (*Verse 41*)

Compassion: Jesus tells this leper that He is indeed desiring to make him clean. Through Mark, we are told He was moved by compassion to cleanse the leper.

Touch and command: Again Jesus gave the personal touch and commanded the man be made clean.

3. At once, it went away from him, the leprosy; and he was made clean. (*Verse 42*)

Cleansed: With this, Jesus instantaneously cleanses the man of a dreaded disease that broke him and made him an outcast – a miracle.

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4. Having sternly warned him, at once He sent him away; He is saying, 'Thou must be seeing, to no one, nothing thou may say; but, thou must be going, thyself thou must show to the (high) priest, and thou must offer thy cleansing, which Moses commanded for a testimony to them'. (*Verses 43-44*)

Say nothing: Jesus strictly commands the man to say nothing to anyone about the cleansing from leprosy he received.

Show to priest: But, he must show himself to the high priest to prove his cleansing for leprosy, per Moses (Leviticus 14:1-32).

5. But, having gone, he began to proclaim much, and to be spreading abroad the word. (*Verses 45a*)

Disobeyed: He soon and directly disobeys Jesus' command to him about saying nothing to no one!

6. So, no longer, He (is being) able openly city to enter; but, outside in desert places He was being, and they were coming to Him on all sides. (*Verses 45b*)

Unwanted seeking: Because of the healed leper's disobedience, Jesus could no longer openly enter a city without being mobbed by those seeking healing.

Jesus: Early in His ministry, Jesus knew people had many misconceptions of Him and His mission.

He needed to balance the full truth of who He IS with the readiness of the people to understand it.

C. David blesses The Covenant God for pardon, healing and redemption; also, compassion, satisfaction and renewal. (*Psalms 103:1-5*)

1. Thou must bless, my soul, to Yahweh / and all my inner being (bless) the Name of His holiness // Thou must bless, my soul, to Yahweh / and not thou will forget all His benefits. (*Verses 1-2*)

Blessing: Israelites used 'bless' the same way we use 'praise'. David exhorts himself to praise His God with all his heart – his inner being.

Remember benefits: He wants to always remember God's benefits to him, which he now enumerates.

2. The One forgiving all thy iniquity / The One healing all thy diseases // The One redeeming from destruction thy life. (*Verses 3-4a*)

Pardon, healing, redemption: He begins with three actions God has taken toward him: forgiveness of his wrong desires, healing of diseases, and redemption from eternal destruction. All this is now given through the redemption Jesus brought.

Jesus is The Redeemer

3. The One crowning thee with love and compassion // The One with good satisfying thy desires / so thou may renew like an eagle thy youth. (*Verses 4b-5*)

Compassion, satisfaction, renewal: David closes with three benefits of his relationship with God: receiving His compassion, having his (right) desires satisfied, and being renewed. These benefits flow from a sacrifice of praise to God (Hebrews 13:13-15).

Application: Let us strive, above all, to practice continual praise to The Triune Covenant God with great joy for all His benefits.

Conclusion: Jesus astonishes people with His authoritative teaching and amazes them with His power to cast out demons and heal all kinds of diseases. Still, He escapes to desolate places for extended prayer, until His people search for Him before He goes on a preaching tour.

When He cleanses a leper, and charges him with silence, the cleansed man cannot help spreading the word of Jesus, just as David was compelled to bless God for all His benefits.

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