

## CONFRONTING EVIL

1. Text: Mark 1:21-28
2. From the very beginning of the Lord's ministry He confronts the forces of evil and valuable lessons for us are there.
3. This passage has Jesus teaching in the synagogue where He amazes the people and casts out an evil spirit. Let's see four lessons from the incident.

### I. **The Conflict**

1. Christ while teaching was confronted by an evil spirit. Luke 4:33,35 calls him a demon.
2. Demons were distinct, separate evil beings dwelling in individuals and controlling or possessing them.
3. This was an inopportune intrusion from the evil spirit world. Here was the Son of God teaching the word of God in the house of God and there's this disruption.
4. Verse 24: "Let us alone. What have we to do with you? Did you come to destroy us?" Yes. I John 3:8 For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
5. Are we ever really "safe" from evil? Is there ever a "time-out"?

### II. **The Confession**

1. This evil spirit makes an amazing confession: "I know who you are - The Holy One of God."
2. Here and 3:11-12 (You are the Son of God) and 5:7 (Jesus, Son of the Most High God) show these even in the evil spirit world knew who Jesus was. See Acts 16:17 also.
3. Often human friends and foes did not realize the savior's nature.
4. Did the devil's knowledge and belief save them? No. James 2:19 The demons believe and tremble.

### III. **The Confirmation**

1. The Lord's mission was to present His message. See Mark 1:38 "I preach because for this purpose I have come forth." And He taught with authority (1:22)
2. His miracles were used as confirmation (to establish, verify, validate, to settle firmly, make certain, sure, permanent, unshakeable) of His message.
3. See Mark 16:20 and Hebrews 2:3 for confirmation idea.
4. Compare 1:22 and 27 where same word used: He taught with authority and with authority He cast out unclean spirits. Note also how doctrine tied to His miracle (verse 27)
5. Notice Matthew 12:28 "If I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the Kingdom of God has come upon you."
6. Scribes did not have Christ's teaching authority. (Verse 22) Our "borrowed authority"

### IV. **The Communication**

1. Notice the evil spirit proclaimed a great truth concerning Jesus but He rebuked him and told him to be quiet. Why? Wasn't it truth?
2. Simply put, the timing was not right. The Lord wanted there to be a gradual unfolding of the understanding of His nature and mission. That doesn't come in Mark until 8:29. (See 15:39 also)
3. The demon here "is out for no good." To cut short prematurely the Lord's plan.
4. Ecclesiastes 3:7 A time to keep silence, and a time to speak.
5. Some times even truth does not need to be said: not appropriate, timely, needed, clear, sensitive. (Brooke)

Conclusion:

**A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings  
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