

Good News Globe

Fourth Weekly Edition

March 7, 2010

HEADLINES FROM THE LIFE OF JESUS

Jesus Heals the Sick Draws Huge Crowds

By Linda Lilyquist

A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.” Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Mark 1:40-41

Focal Passage: Mark 1:29-34, 40 Mark 2

Thought...

How do you feel when someone comes into a room and has the answer to a question that everyone has been wondering about? They speak...everyone listens. There can be at least two reactions to such a scene. The first may be that of relief. GREAT! Finally, someone has given me the truth, the solution, the “answer.” This may be reassuring and calming. A second response could be that of resistance with an attitude of skepticism and looking the person over. Where does this person’s authority come from? Do I know them? How can I check out what they are saying? How dare they come in here and try to take over. Who do they think they are?

Relief vs. Resistance. Jesus finds himself in this situation. When he makes a bee-line for the synagogue, he is entering priest, Pharisee and rabbi (teacher) territory. He sits down and evidently joins in on the weekly habit of discussing the scriptures. What usually happened was that one person would speak, and then another and each would be quoting someone who had formerly had an idea about the scripture. In Jesus’ day, no one spoke as though they had the final say regarding a scripture...that would be presumptive...that would be God’s job.

This “final say” business is where Jesus stands out. See that phrase “he taught them as one who had authority?” Authority is short-cut for “the one that has final say.” We can even see the word “author” in “authority.” We know that Jesus came across like this because people are marveling at His words and are amazed that he can present a new teaching with final say... with authority! He doesn’t have to base it on some other person’s thoughts...He *is* the originator of the teaching. He *is* God.

NEWS YOU CAN USE: There are two questions in our focal passage this week. “What is *this*? (1:27) referring to Jesus’ new way of teaching with authority and “*Who* is this” (4:41) regarding this person that can command wind and waves. Evil spirits, seeds, wind and waves pay attention to his “final say” words. How do you answer these questions? When you hear the teachings of Jesus what is your reaction? Relief or Resistance? Does He have “final say” authority in your life?

This week look for a teaching, a proverb or a parable in His Word and act on it as though it really is true, as though it really was spoken by the One that has final authority in our lives.

Prayer... Dear God, You are the author, the originator of everything. Thank you for allowing us to see this more clearly through Jesus’ teachings and life here on earth. I ask that you would help me to accept your authority, your final say in my life. Help me to find comfort and relief in your teachings and trust them. Amen.

How to Gain from the “Headline” series

- Listen to the sermons
- Read the Book of Mark
- Share the *Good News Globe* weekly edition as a family
- Act on what you learn
- Share the “Good News” with someone

News You Can Use Actions That Make a Difference

Accept His Authority
Choose a teaching or proverb
...apply it.

The Rest of the Story

Our challenge in the coming weeks is to read the book of Mark. This will give you the details behind the story. We also have for you a CD of the Gospel of Mark. Get yours at the Welcome Counter TODAY!

Scripture Readings for 7 Weeks

Feb 14	Mark 1:1-3:6
Feb 21	Mark 3:7-4:34
Feb 28	Mark 4:35-6:30
Mar 7	Mark 6:31-8:30
Mar 14	Mark 8:31-10:45
Mar 21	Mark 10:46-13:37
Mar 28	Mark 14:1-16:8
Apr 4	Easter!

FEATURED ITEM

Join the Resurrection Easter Choir.
Rehearsals are Mondays 6:30pm
Click here for more information.
<http://www.gatewaychurchonline.com/ministries/music/>

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