

# Kingdom Strategy: The Teaching of Jesus

As Jesus began His public ministry, He proclaimed that in Him the Kingdom of God had arrived. This would mean a dramatic regime change in the world; but how would Jesus go about implementing this new kingdom? Most rulers and authorities, when taking power, build loyal coalitions, raise armies, and marginalized or destroy enemies.

In our text today, we see that Jesus takes a different approach:

## Mark 1:21-28

**21** And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. **22** And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. **23** And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, **24** “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.” **25** But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” **26** And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. **27** And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” **28** And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

### I. Jesus’ Kingdom Strategy is to teach (vv. 21-22)

Jesus’ public ministry consists of preaching, teaching, and healing (cf. Mt. 4:23; 9:35), but Mark clearly teaches that Jesus’ preaching and teaching ministries were particularly prominent in His strategy. The words for “teacher” and “to teach,” for example, are used 27 times in Mark, almost always referring to Jesus.

#### A. Jesus teaches first in His home church. (21)

Jesus is not a mere radical. Although His message is extraordinarily radical, His methodology is unusually conventional: He goes to the local synagogue on the Sabbath day.

#### B. Jesus teaches with a new authority. (22)

Everyone recognized that Jesus taught very differently from the other rabbis, who taught largely by citing rabbinical precedents. Jesus taught on His own authority: “I say to you...” how do we communicate and receive the truth with this authority? We must hear the Bible as the Word of God and hold each other accountable for it and reverence the ultimate Author of the Bible even as we read and hear it.

### II. Jesus’ Teaching Subdues His Enemies (vv. 23-26)

#### A. His teaching provokes His enemies (23,24)

Why is it that mere words so violently stir up the underworld? It’s because Jesus’ words are words of truth, and the evil one is the father of lies. Satan hates everything Jesus loves.

#### B. His teaching destroys His enemies (25,26)

Without fancy incantations or hocus-pocus, Jesus simply speaks a command, and the demons flee. He makes no deals and no compromises and offers nothing but unconditional surrender. His Word bears the same power today!

**III. Jesus' Teaching Saves the World (vv. 27-28)**

There are 8 different words in Mark's gospel for the concept of amazement, for he repeatedly presents Jesus as an astonishing Teacher and Savior. This amazement is contagious and compels us to share this gospel with the world.

**A. We are amazed at His teaching (v. 27)**

The power of His teaching amazes us.

**B. We communicate our amazement to others (v. 28)**

The gospel of Christ travels to every tribe and nation in the world, because His people are thunderstruck with the power of His redeeming gospel.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Describe some ways in which we can faithfully keep ourselves under the power and authority of Jesus' teaching?
2. Share an experience when you observed the truth of Christ stirring up the powers of evil.
3. Why do the demons obey Jesus? Why does this encourage you?
4. How has Jesus amazed you? Why is it necessary that you continually be amazed by Him? How do you sustain your sense of wonder in Him?

**Going Deeper:**

Develop a plan to place yourself daily under the authority of Jesus' Word.