

## 28.24 Man with Unclean Spirit; Peter's Mother-in-Law (Mark 1:21–34; Luke 4:31–41; Matthew 8:14–17)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- Felt houses, synagogue, and lake

### Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:

- *Capernaum*: The town on the northwest corner of the Sea of Galilee that Jesus made his home and headquarters. Peter and Andrew had been from Bethsaida but ✓apparently moved here, for Peter had a house here. ✓It is possible that both Peter's and Andrew's families and perhaps the families of James and John lived in that house (Mark 1:29). ✓We think Jesus also lived there. It must have been a sizable house. The remains of a synagogue that was perhaps erected on the foundation of an older one from Jesus' day is being reconstructed today. [See pictures below.]
- *Sabbath*: the seventh day of the week which the Jews in the Old Testament and in Jesus' day set aside for God. Our new day begins at midnight, but the Jewish day began at sundown and ended at sundown. So the Jewish Sabbath began Friday night at sundown and ended Saturday night at sundown.
- *scribes*: The word *scribe* means to write. Therefore, scribes did what? [Wrote.] Yes, they copied the Old Testament by hand, following very stringent rules so that they would not make mistakes, for they were handling the Word of God. Copying the Bible, they knew it pretty well.
- *evil spirit, unclean spirit, demon*: Angels are spirits—beings without bodies. Near the time of creation, Satan decided he wanted to be like the Most High God. He led a rebellion, and some of the angels followed him instead of God. God cast these rebellious angels and Satan out of heaven. According to the usual definition, these fallen angels are called evil spirits, unclean spirits, or demons.

However, another line of thought is that evil spirits, unclean spirits, or demons are the disembodied spirits of the offspring (*Nephilim*) of angels (“sons of God”) who cohabited with women in Genesis 6.

In Jesus' time, especially, unclean spirits lived in some people and controlled them, making them do strange things. Sometimes the unclean spirit would make a person act perfectly normal, but at other times it would make a person act really weird. Somebody needed to cast the unclean, evil spirit out of demon-possessed people so that they would not continue to be controlled by the unclean spirit.

- *a muzzle or to muzzle*: a device put on the snout of an animal, *e.g.*, a dog, so that it cannot bark. [See picture below.] It means, then, to muzzle something.

### Scripture: (ESV)

Mark 1:21 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.

29 And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. 31 And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

32 That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. 33 And the whole city was gathered together at the door. 34 And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

Luke 4:31 And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, 32 and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. 33 And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, 34 "Ha! 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." 35 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. 36 And they were all amazed and said to one another, "What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!" 37 And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

38 And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. 39 And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

40 Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. 41 And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

Matthew 8:14 And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. 15 He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him. 16 That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."

### **Introduction/Review:**

An important reason for Jesus' living in Capernaum was to fulfill Old Testament prophecy, for Capernaum lay in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali. Isaiah 9:1 and 2 had prophesied, "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned." Jesus was the Light that was dawning upon them.

When Jesus called four fishermen to follow Him (probably near Capernaum), what did He say the fishermen would do if they followed Him? [They would become fishers of men.] What does "fishers of men" mean? [They would tell people about the Lord Jesus Christ, and many would believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.] What did the fishermen do? [They left their nets and followed Jesus.]

### **Story:**

#### ***Jesus, an authoritative Teacher***

On the very next Sabbath day after those fishermen had left their nets to follow Jesus, Jesus, as was his practice, went to the synagogue and, as was his practice, taught the people. However, there was something different about the way Jesus taught compared to the way the scribes usually taught. Anyone who listened could see it as plain as day: Jesus taught as if He really knew what He was talking about. He didn't have to say, "Rabbi So-and-So thinks this means —" or, as was actually written later, "Rabbi Zeira says, on the authority of Rabbi Jose bar Rabbi Chanina, and Rabbi Ba or Rabbi Chija on the authority of Rabbi Jochanan . . ." (Online Bible, TFG 166, 167). No, Jesus said over and over, "I say unto you; I tell you the truth." He spoke with authority because He truly spoke the Word of God because He is God. The people listened with

wonder and admiration.

### ***The man with an evil spirit***

Their amazement, however, soon was shattered by the scream of a man in their midst—a man with an unclean spirit: “Ha! 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!”

Imagine it! ✓“Yikes!” thought the people. “What is this? What’s going on? What did that man say?”

You see, students, that demon, could not stand to be in the presence of God Himself. It knew that Jesus could destroy it. It recognized that Jesus was truly the “Holy One of God”—God Himself.

✓Jesus doesn’t need or want demons to testify to His Godhead; He doesn’t need one controlled by the deceiver to witness to His deity.\* “He did not even receive the witness of men, how much less of demons” (WKE 69 in Online Bible). Jesus said to the unclean spirit, “Be muzzled—be silent and come out of him!”

Showing everyone there that He has greater power than Satan himself, Jesus commanded that evil spirit to come out of the man. Now the evil spirit did something weird: he shook the man, threw him down, and cried with a loud voice. But he came out of the man, and the man was not hurt at all.\*\* He was no longer controlled by the demon, but he was in his right mind. Jesus had freed him.

### ***The amazement of the crowd***

Wow! Those people had never seen anything like this. Jesus, by His own word, by His own authority had cast out a demon. He had shown He was truly greater than all unclean spirits! “And the people were all amazed, saying to one another, ‘What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!’” (Luke 4:36).

This was something to tell others! And tell others they did! They didn’t have TV or radio. They didn’t have cell phones or Facebook, but word spread fast throughout the whole region!

### ***A sick grandmother***

Meanwhile, Jesus and His four “fishers of men” went to Peter’s house. But when they got there, they learned there was trouble at home. [Teacher, for preschool through primary ages, use the term *grandmother* rather than *Peter’s mother-in-law*.] The mother of Peter’s wife was sick with a high fever. This was a serious, life-threatening sickness! “Jesus, Peter’s mother-in-law is extremely ill,” people pleaded. “Will you help her?”

Of course, Jesus could help her! He went to her, commanded the fever to leave, took her hand, and helped her stand up. The fever was gone!

Now, when you have a fever and it goes away, you might still feel “wiped out” for a while until you are completely well. That is not what happened with Peter’s mother-in-law. She was immediately completely well. In fact, she got up and helped serve the meal then and there. Oh, Jesus healed her perfectly!

### ***Healing many***

By this time, the sun was beginning to set. That meant that the Sabbath was over and people could work again. ✓“Jesus can work now too,” people must have thought. What did they do? Listen to Luke 4:40 and 41: “Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. And demons also came out of many, crying, ‘You are the Son of God!’ But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.” Jesus was very busy healing every one of that multitude of people who came to Peter’s house that night. ✓No doubt He was exhausted.

Did you know Jesus’ healing people was also a fulfillment of Old Testament scripture? Yes, for again the prophet Isaiah prophesied about it: “He took our illnesses and bore our diseases” (Isaiah 53:4). Truly, Jesus

is God, the Messiah!

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\*“Truth is never advantaged from the confession of known liars, as the devil was from the beginning. Christ needed not the devil’s testimony, either to his holiness, or his being the Son of God, nor would he have people allow the least faith to the devil’s words. Nor was he to be imposed upon by the devil’s good words; he was to make no truce with him, but to destroy him and his works, he therefore charges him to hold his peace, and to come out” (TFG 169 in Online Bible).

\*\*“Whom Satan cannot destroy, he will do all the hurt he can to; but this is a comfort, he can harm them no further than Christ permits; nay, he shall not do them any real harm. He came out, and hurt him not; that is, the poor man was perfectly well in an instant, though the devil left him with so much rage that all that were present thought he had torn him to pieces” (MH in Online Bible).

\*\*\*“A leper, a Gentile, a woman—these were three types of people on whom Jesus had compassion. All three were viewed by Jesus’ contemporaries as untouchables, as outsiders, or as insignificant. What was significant was not simply Jesus’ ability to heal sickness, but His readiness to defy social and religious taboos. This readiness was as miraculous and even more obnoxious to fellow Jews than the fact of the healings. Matthew makes it quite clear that it was easier for Jesus to expel demons from their homes in people than to rid His scribal enemies from their taboos” (WNT in Online Bible).

### **Lessons from this lesson:**

- Jesus is God:  
Even the demons testify He is the “Holy One of God” (Mark 1:24; Luke 4:34).  
He fulfilled Isaiah 53:4—“He took our illnesses . . . diseases” (Matthew 4:14–17, ESV).
- Jesus is able to heal. We need to pray more when we are sick.
- Work for Jesus until you are exhausted as He was.

### **Activities:**

- Play dough: synagogue, bed
- Have students identify the mother-in-law of each of their parents. [Teacher, if you have students with unmarried parents, skip this activity or use only a few examples.]
- Play with felt houses, synagogue, and lake
- Play game, “Simon Says.” Do what I say only if I say, “Simon says.” 1) “Stand on one foot”; 2) Simon says, “Reach high with both hands”; 3) Simon says, “Touch your knees”; 4) “Touch your head”; 5) Simon says, “Turn around once”; 6) “Sit down”; 7) Simon says, “Put hands behind your back”; 8) Simon says, “This game is done; so sit down.”
- Review Questions: (Game: Print the 2 pictures (on one page found below) of the Capernaum synagogue pillars. Back with paper towel and cut out the pillars; discard background. A correct answer allows a student to place a pillar on the flannel board.)
  1. What is the first thing Jesus did on the Sabbath in Capernaum? [Went to the synagogue.]
  2. What was Jesus doing in the synagogue? [Teaching.]
  3. How was Jesus’ teaching different from that of the scribes? [He taught as one who had authority.]
  4. What disrupted the synagogue service? [The scream of a demon-possessed man.]
  5. The demon said Jesus is what? [The Holy One of God.]
  6. Why did Jesus rebuke the demon for saying that? [He doesn’t need or want a liar to testify of Him.]4
  7. How damaged was the man after Jesus cast out the demon? [The demon did him no harm.]
  8. When Jesus healed Peter’s mother-in-law, how long did it take for her to be fully well? [No time; she

served immediately.]

9. Who came to Peter's house, and what did they want? [People seeking healing of all kinds of diseases.]

### Memory Verse[s]:

- Mark 1:27—"He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."
- Review John 1:1–14:
  - 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
  - 2 He was in the beginning with God.
  - 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
  - 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
  - 5 ¶ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
  - 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John.
  - 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.
  - 8 He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light.
  - 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.
  - 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.
  - 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.
  - 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:
    - 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
    - 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

### Handwork:

- (See booklet found in a separate document in landscape orientation.) After copying the two pages front to back and cutting in half horizontally, assemble the booklet, fold, and staple. Color the pictures.

**Capernaum**

**Sabbath**

**evil/unclean spirit**

**scribes**

**muzzle**





A drawing of what the completed synagogue at Capernaum might have looked like

<https://www.bible-history.com/sketches/ancient/capernaum-synagogue.html>





[https://www.google.com/search?q=peter%27s+mother-in-law&rlz=1C1LDJZ\\_enUS499US509&source=Inms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjE6duRoMvTAhVJ1GMKHctXCgMQ\\_AUICigB&biw=1600&bih=832#tbm=isch&q=the+unclean+man+in+capernaum&imgsrc=V4B3VRUpQt2VM:](https://www.google.com/search?q=peter%27s+mother-in-law&rlz=1C1LDJZ_enUS499US509&source=Inms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjE6duRoMvTAhVJ1GMKHctXCgMQ_AUICigB&biw=1600&bih=832#tbm=isch&q=the+unclean+man+in+capernaum&imgsrc=V4B3VRUpQt2VM:)





<https://www.medi-vet.com/Quick-Release-Nylon-Dog-Muzzle-p/16822.htm>

