

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

January 22-28, 2018

Worship as encounter with the living God cannot be limited to one hour per week. "Weekday Worship" invites you to extend your worship beyond the sanctuary, to hear the story of the Bible as your story, lived out each day of each week. Feedback is appreciated and should be directed to Rita Boyer.

BIBLE READING

This week's reading is: Mark 1:21–28 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=380263173>).

Other readings are: Deuteronomy 18:15–20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1–13.

The theme is: Called to Truthful Love

Last week we saw two fishermen drop everything to follow Jesus without hesitation. We wondered how that would be possible. What was it about Jesus that elicited such a life-changing response? This week's reading affirms that there was something different about Jesus and the manner in which he taught. He taught with "authority." In Jesus' culture, the scribes were respected teachers who showed knowledge and skill, but Jesus' teaching was based on more than scholarship. Jesus had authority from God. It was apparent and undeniable, and it threatened the scribes and those who were in positions of authority. While teaching in the synagogue, Jesus heals a man, freeing him from the unclean spirits that haunt him. The account of this healing, while fascinating to modern readers, is merely an illustration of Jesus' authority. It plays a secondary role. This is primarily a story about teaching, not healing. The truly amazing fact is that Jesus has divine authority, as evidenced when unclean spirits obey him! He is unlike anyone they have seen before.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

"Questions to Consider" enable you to connect your story to the biblical story. Rather than easy questions to be answered at first glance, these questions or reflections can be returned to and meditated upon throughout the week.

How can we, as the body of Christ, act with loving authority for freedom, justice, and healing of the earth and its people?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of January 21:

Visualize the things that hold you back from following Jesus completely and without hesitation? Imagine those things as creating a wall or a burden on your back. Spend time this week visualizing yourself unpacking those burdens or tearing down the wall, pushing the obstacles further away.

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