

Changing The World

Part II

Mark 1:21—2:12

‘We never saw anything like this!’ (2:12)

That is the universal reaction to Jesus whenever people are confronted by the authority of his preaching and the power of his healing.

Stunned! Speechless!

Has the Lord Jesus made a similar impression on you? Read the verses set out above, answer the following questions, and let the full glory of this Person sink in on you.

- 1) What does it mean that the people are ‘astonished at his [Jesus’] authority’? See 1:22 and 27.

- 2) Why does Jesus refuse to capitalize on his growing popularity, but instead withdraws to ‘a desolate place’? (1:35)

- 3) After Jesus cleanses the leper, he enjoins the man to ‘say nothing to anyone’ (1:44). Why?

- 4) How would you answer Jesus’ question in 2:9: ‘Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, “Your sins are forgiven,” or to say, “Rise, take up your bed and walk”?’ More importantly, what is the point of Jesus’ question?

- 5) To sum up, how would you describe the Jesus who is presented in 1:21-2:12? And how do you respond personally to such a Jesus?