

**Mark 1:21-34**

**Pastor Joe Valenti**

**September 28, 2025**



## **SERMON NOTES & QUOTES**

### **Insufficiency of Knowledge and Position (vv. 21-22)**

- Synagogue: A first century was a local gathering place where Jewish communities met for prayer, reading and teaching of Scripture, and community life. It wasn't a temple with sacrifices, but a house of assembly where the Torah was read, explained, and applied.
- Scribe: A trained expert in the Jewish law and Scriptures. They copied, interpreted, and taught the Law of Moses, often serving as legal scholars and religious authorities within the community.

### **Question to Consider:**

- In what ways are you satisfied with Bible knowledge and resistant to the Supernatural power of the Spirit to transform you?

### **The Insufficiency of Experience and Power (vv. 23-27)**

- Mark doesn't usually call them 'demons,' like Matthew or Luke. Instead, he says 'unclean spirits.' That matters, because in the Roman world the word 'demon' could sometimes sound neutral, even positive – like a guiding spirit.
- But by calling them unclean spirits, Mark makes it crystal clear for his Gentile readers: these beings are not wise helpers or spiritual guides. They are defiling, destructive forces in direct opposition to the Holy Spirit of God.

Demons are spiritual beings - they don't have bodies. In the Bible we see both their influence and they inhabit both people and animals.

Demons are sneaky. The Bible tells us that the devil and his demons are:

- cunning
- deceptive
- liars
- prowling
- scheming

And that they disguise as angels of light - as workers of righteousness.

### **Question to Consider:**

Am I just impressed with Jesus, but unwilling to submit to him as Savior and Lord?

# PRAYER TARGETS

## **Pray for Spirit-empowered preaching and teaching.**

Ask God that Pastor Joe & Pastor Josh—that they would not rely on knowledge or position alone, but that the Spirit’s power would rest on them so that people hear with conviction and transformation, not just information.

## **Pray for hearts to move from amazement to submission.**

Ask the Lord to guard our church from being impressed with Jesus but unchanged. Pray that the Spirit would bring repentance, trust, and obedience in the lives of those who hear.

## **Pray for protection from the enemy’s schemes.**

Lift up the congregation, asking God to expose the subtle lies and distractions of Satan that would keep people satisfied with surface-level faith. Pray that the Spirit would give discernment, courage, and victory in the spiritual battle.

## **Pray for LifeGroups to be places of true transformation.**

Ask God to move groups beyond comfort and knowledge alone, into confession, prayer, accountability, and Spirit-led growth. Pray that LifeGroups would become battlegrounds where believers put on the armor of God together.

## **Pray for confidence in Christ’s authority.**

Pray that the people of CVC would rest in the truth that Jesus has full authority over every dark power. Pray that this confidence would produce freedom, peace, and boldness to live under His reign today.