**Sermon Notes**

**“A New Teaching with Authority”**

Mark 1:21-28

21 They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. 22 The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.

23 Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, 24 “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

25 “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!”

26 The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. 27 The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.” 28 News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

**The Point of the Passage?**

Not the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Advent of Jesus: A New Hope**

**Questions for Discussion**

1. What was the most personally impactful aspect of this message for you?

2. Luke 4:16 notes that Jesus attended Jewish synagogues “as was his custom.” Casual church attendance seems to be on the rise within many churches in North America. Why do you believe this is the case? How should Jesus’ example challenge us? How do the Scriptures challenge us to approach weekly worship? (cf. Hebrews 10:25, Acts 20:7).

3. Jesus taught as one “who had authority”. What are the characteristics of teachers who powerfully shape others? Who have these teachers been in your life?

4. The gospels record that in many cases Jesus performs miracles simply by command of his words (eg. Mark 4:39, John 4:46-51). What does this tell us about who Jesus was and is? (cf. Genesis 1:3).

5. What is the lesson we learn from the fact that though they witnessed Jesus’ encounter with a demon and were astounded at his teaching, most of Capernaum resisted Jesus’ gospel (“good news”) message (Matthew 11:23)? What is the warning for us today?

**Prayer Prompters**

-Pray for those for whom the Christmas season is an especially difficult time.

-Pray for those who are resistant to the gospel in your life.

-Pray for the team putting together Christmas Encarna; that many would come and be powerfully impacted by its message.

-Pray that our church would experience new hope, love, joy, peace as we move through the Advent season.

**Take Action**

The advent of Jesus meant a new hope for those living in darkness. How could you share this good news with others this week? What personal darkness do you need to invite Jesus into for help and hope?