

PASTOR'S NOTES

The King's Authority

Mark 1:21-28

Jesus, the King, is authoritative.

Capernaum:

Jesus and his disciples enter the synagogue on the Sabbath, and there Jesus begins to teach. This was a normal practice for him. Matthew records that Jesus *went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom* (Matthew 4:23), and Luke states that *he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all* (Luke 4:15).

Jesus values and understands the importance of God's people gathering weekly.

Those hearing him were *astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes*. (Mark 1:22)

What made Jesus different from others who taught, such as the scribes? Jesus is the Word. He didn't quote the teaching of religious leaders or interpret the law based on traditions or manmade rules. He spoke with an authority that belonged uniquely to himself. The scribes spoke with authority granted to them. Jesus' authority was inherent. Jesus could say, "I say to you."

We can even see a distinction between Jesus and the prophets of God. The prophets received God's word and declared it to the people, saying, "Thus says the Lord." Jesus proclaimed, "I say to you."

Jesus speaks in perfect unity with the Father, and as the eternal Son, he possesses divine authority in himself.

The same Jesus who spoke authoritatively in Capernaum speaks authoritatively to us.

Submitting completely to Jesus' authority and word is what it means to call him King.

The King's kingdom confronts the darkness.

And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. (Mark 1:23)

Clearly, Jesus' presence provokes a confrontation.

The demon within the man cries out: "*What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?*" (Mark 1:24)

This evil spirit understands that there is more at stake than Jesus' presence and teaching in Capernaum. He understands that Jesus, the king of the kingdom of God, is a threat to the entire demonic realm.

When a king shows up in enemy territory to announce his kingdom, the enemy is provoked, recognizing that his dominion is under serious threat. The answer, of course, is yes. Jesus has come to overthrow the works of the devil and ultimately destroy his dominion.

Take notice: this confrontation is not a struggle between two equal powers. There is no uncertainty about who will prevail. The demon can cry out and convulse the man. But he cannot withstand the command of Jesus. When the King speaks, the powers of darkness must obey!

Later in Mark, Jesus describes his ministry as entering the house of a strong man, binding him, and plundering his possessions (Mark 3:27). Satan is powerful, but as John the Baptist had announced, "One who is mightier" has come, and he is reclaiming and freeing what the enemy has held captive.

And what begins here anticipates where the Gospel is ultimately going. At the cross, Jesus will deal decisively with sin and Satan, and through his resurrection he will triumph over death itself.

The King's identity demands more than recognition.

The demon understands something about Jesus that most people have not yet understood. *I know who you are-- the Holy One of God.* (Mark 1:24)

The demon's confession is remarkable. The demon recognizes Jesus. He fears him. He even obeys Jesus' command. But he does not love, trust, or follow him. Clearly, simply recognizing Jesus is not the equivalent of saving faith. James makes this same point later: *You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!* (James 2:19)

Mark reveals different responses to Jesus.

- The demons recognize him.
- The crowds are astonished by him.
- But the disciples follow him.

Mark wants us to see the evidence and come to the right conclusion: *Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.* But once we know who he is, he demands a faithful response.

So, the question of the day is not merely, "Do you know who Jesus is?" The question is, "Knowing who he is, have you entrusted your life to him by faith?"

Has his authority brought you to repentance and belief? Has his call caused you to follow him?



MeadowBrook
CHURCH

Sunday, August 30, 2026 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com

Jesus Christ

far above all rule and authority

and power and dominion,

and above every name that is named,

not only in this age

but also in the one to come.

EPHESIANS 1:21 ESV





Celebrating Decisions

Candidates for Membership & Baptism

JESSE & MELISSA
BATTLES
Membership

SHILOH BODEAU
Baptism

RICH BYER
Baptism

JOSHUA & BRITNEY
HAMILTON
Membership

AARON HERRERA
Baptism

BROCK & JENSEN
LAWLEY
Membership

SEBASTIAN & CINDY
ROMANO
Membership

DUSTIN & KATIE
ROSSER
Membership

FAITH SCARPITTI
Baptism

RICHARD SEAGRAVES
Membership

BRENTON SKAGGS
Baptism

COMAN & PAMELA
SMITH
Membership

IAN SMITH
Baptism

JANE STEWART
Membership

BRIAN STOKES
Membership

ELLIE SWAILS &
JOSIE SWAILS
Baptism

MIKE & LORIE
THORNTON
Membership

KIM WEAVER
Membership



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

TODAY
8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
9:00 & 10:30 am - Worship - Worship Center
9:00 & 10:30 am - Life Group
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Kids - Kids' Theater
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Preschool

MONDAY, AUGUST 31
10:00 am - GriefShare - Conference Center

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
10:45 am - Abundant Life Choir - Worship Center

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
5:00 pm - Fellowship Meal - Gym
(Grilled Chicken, Baked Potato, Corn on the Cob, Seven Layer Salad, Rolls & Dessert or Salad with a Protein Kids: Same or PB&J)
5:30 pm - Kids' Choir - Room 210
6:30 pm - Adult Bible Study, Preschool Ministry, KidStuf, Middle School Worship, High School Worship, Worship Ministry Rehearsal

2026 DAILY BIBLE READING

August 30 - Luke 23:32-56	September 3 - Ezra 3
August 31 - Luke 24	September 4 - Ezra 4:1-16
September 1 - Ezra 1	September 5 - Ezra 4:17-24
September 2 - Ezra 2	

WEDNESDAY BREAKOUTS

SEPT 9 - OCT 14 | 6:30 PM

Breakout groups are intentional topical studies that meet for a short season on Wednesday nights. These groups help equip disciples in various areas so that they might better glorify God in every area of their lives.

Life Verses: Lights to Our Paths
Hunter Hindsman, Taylor Wiggins, Al Garrett & Ed Kensil

Parenting with Confidence
Todd & Jeanie Tumlin; Brandon & Lori Snyder

What does the Bible say about ____? Six Conversations for and with Young Adults
Chad Kitchens

Finances God's Way - Beyond the Basics
Phil Hamilton

Ministry Connections
Mike Niemi & Joe Gilchrist

How to Disciple Someone
Daniel Doak & Jamie McGlaughn

Breakout descriptions listed at mbchurch.com



Tuesday Bible Study

Begins Tuesday, SEPT 8
9:30 AM - Dining Hall
Taught by Gerry Grant
For Men & Women

The Well at Brunson Farms

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 from 2:00 until 6:30 PM
BRUNSON FARMS
{6505 Steele Station Road • Rainbow City, AL}

The afternoon will include worship, a grazing table, and breakout groups designed to encourage and equip ladies of all ages, sixth grade and up, with practical tools to grow in and live out their faith.

Register on the App or mbchurch.com
COST: \$25 • Optional Sweatshirt: \$20

Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Kyle Hughes, Margie Martin, Robert Darnell, Aiden Beck, Larry Hill, Jamye Ingram, Anna Rae Wilson, Tiki Kemp McConnell, Charles Wells, Bonnie Pierce, Scott Watford, Sabrina Freeman, Sharon Tillison, Paul Roberts, Carol Collins, David Hindsman

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruett, Chris Burnette, Lloyd & Diane Matthews, Susan Mize, Lola-Ruth Adams, Landon Cunningham, Archie Wade, Denise Dover, Peggy Brizendine, Kathy Thompson, Jimmy & Delores Thompson, Lavelle Ogletree, Danny Maddox, Robin Roberts, Ron Crawford, Phil Causey, Janet Maise, Rita Tipton, David Draper, Reese Robinson, Charlotte Taylor, Lindsey Rakestraw, Laura Hoge, Tim Davis, Gary Alexander, Karen Ragan, Linda Roy, Joan Henry, Linda Dees, Gerry Grant, Dorothy Hand, Kenny Cahall, Rita McClure, Ivan Fike

- Jimmy Thompson & family in the loss of his brother
- Brent Cooper & family in the loss of his brother
- Luther Riley - Riverview
- Steve Johnson - recovering from an ablation
- Deborah Sullivan & family in the loss of her sister
- Bristell Fry - Children's Hospital
- Linda Wright, mother of Will Wright - St. Vincent's East