



Gary Inrig – The Miracles (Supreme Authority)

Read the Chapter in Advance of the Weekly Study. Make a Mental Note or Jot Down Something That Stood Out To You – and “Why? (Something strike you - strange – new or different?)

Week 2 – Read Chapter Two: “Supreme Authority” Teaching & Miracles in Capernaum

- Read – Mark 1:21-39

Opening Prayer: Begin with prayer, asking God to open hearts and minds to understand Jesus's supreme authority and what it means for our daily lives.

Overview: In this chapter Gary explores the authority of Jesus Christ drawing from **Mark Chapter 1**. Throughout he draws a contrast between earthly authority vs. God's sovereign authority. He outlines three aspects of Christ's supreme authority: #1. ***His ‘authoritative’ teaching*** which astonishes His listeners, #2. ***His power over demons (spiritual ailments)***, and #3. ***His ability to heal*** all manner of sickness (***physical ailments***). Jesus performed miracles to meet needs and authenticate His identity, but His primary mission was to ***preach the gospel*** and ultimately ***give His life - a ransom*** for many. The main point and challenge that Gary poses is whether - we will move from “astonishment” at what Jesus can do - to total “submission” and faith in Him as Lord and Sovereign. Can we say as “doubting Thomas declared - ***“My Lord and my God”*** John 20:28

"Leaping out of the slough of doubt, on to the rock of confidence, by a single spring"
~ Charles Spurgeon (Talking about The Apostle Thomas)

SOME KEY POINTS:

- **Jesus teaches with innate authority** - Unlike the scribes who quoted other rabbis, Jesus spoke with divine authority that amazed and astonished His listeners.
- **Jesus commands demons with absolute authority** - The spiritual realm recognizes and submits to Jesus's power immediately.
- **Jesus heals with complete authority** - His healing is instantaneous and total, demonstrating power over sickness and death.

Read Mark 1:21-39 together.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever experienced authority that made a major impact on you? How did it change your perspective or inform (guide) your future actions?

2. Would you say that you are – "astonished" at Jesus's teaching and miracles (*keeping Him at arm's length*) or are you more so – in "awe-filled submission" (*intimately aware of and experienced*) of His authority? Where would you place yourself on a scale of 1 to 10? (*Which Thomas are you?*) (*1 being the lowest and 10 the highest*). What experience has brought you there?

3. Gary points out that our modern culture has a "curious schizophrenia" - rejecting belief in demons while embracing astrology, witchcraft, and other spiritual practices. Why is that?

4. Why do you think Jesus silenced the demons who correctly identified Him? What does this teach about the source of testimony and why it matters? (*hint: association*)

5. When the disciples said, "Everyone is looking for you," Jesus chose to move on to another town - and preach there. What does this say about His priorities?

6. Gary ends the chapter by asking, "Will you pay Him homage?" - What would that look like for you ... to pay homage to Jesus as "undisputed sovereign" of your life this week? What would have to change in your daily life if you truly lived under His supreme authority?



Things to Do this Week - Try to Put Into Practice One or Two

- **Submit to His Authority:** Choose one teaching of Jesus that challenges you and commit to obeying it this week. Journal about the difference between knowing what Jesus said and doing it. (*Ideas? – forgiveness, humility, purity, loving an enemy, serving others, trusting God not material possessions*).
- **Recognize His Spiritual Authority:** Pray for spiritual discernment in recognizing spiritual influences in your life. (Test the spirits). Examine your entertainment, relationships, or routines - are any of them opening doors to darkness? If you are struggling with spiritual oppression or darkness, seek prayer and support from mature believers. You can always also seek prayer and support from the Elders of this church. We are a praying body.
- **Trust His Authority Over Your Circumstances:** Bring a specific "illness" (physical, emotional, relational, or spiritual) to Jesus in prayer. Share with a trusted mature Christian or bring to our weekly corporate prayer on Monday nights on Zoom. Practice trusting His authority even when you don't see it! Even when your healing doesn't come immediately or just the way you expect it to.

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- **Closing Prayer:** (*this prayer is only a suggestion - please be encouraged to pray your own as the Holy Spirit leads*) – **Note: If there are any needs that have arisen during the study tonight – lift these up - especially.**

Dear Lord – Thank You for this time together and learning more about submitting to Your sovereign authority. Please forgive us for the times that we've resisted – ignored or run the other way – we ask You to protect each of us and all whom we love - from spiritual darkness. If there are any wounds that need healing we ask You by the Power of Your spoken Word to heal us now – Your Word says by "Your stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5)– take away forever any and all of the hurts that have been locked up inside – especially those that have been perhaps even - hidden from us. Heal us– by Your Holy Spirit – We pray - that You go where no one else can tread – root out every form of darkness and every evil way we thank you and this we pray in Jesus name! "