

Jesus' First Encounter With a Demon

Be silent. Come out of him.

MARK 1:25

Written by Bill Perkins

The Capernaum synagogue
was crowded with men in clean linen robes-
cream, beige, soft blues, muted reds-
sandals wiped clean before entering.

Stone benches lined the room,
built into basalt walls.

High windows
sent narrow shafts of light across the floor.

Women stood at the doorway,
children pressed close to their skirts.

Every person sat in silence,
savoring every word-
droplets of honey
dripping on their hearts.

Then it happened.

A man jerked to his feet.
His face twisted.
His arm shot forward,
finger stabbing the air
toward Jesus.

A voice-
not his own-
deep and guttural,
growled: "We know who You are,
Jesus of Nazareth?the Holy One of God!"
(Mark 1:24)

A scream burst from the women.

A gasp swept the room.

Never-

had a synagogue teaching
been interrupted like this.

No man there

had ever heard
the voice of a monster.

There were stories-

old tales most dismissed
as myth.

But now-

in their presence-
the unseen world
was seen.

You may not know this about Jesus:

the first time a demon
announced His identity
was not in a graveyard,
but in a synagogue-
in the middle of a sermon.
(Mark 1:21-23)

Hell tried to hijack the moment,
to turn every ear
from His words
to its terror.

Jesus would not let a demon
introduce Him.

"Be quiet,
and come out of him!"
(Mark 1:25)

The man convulsed.

A shriek tore out-
then he collapsed,
limp and free,
on the swept-clean floor.

The monster was gone.

The man remained.

A stunned silence

filled the room.

"What is this?" they whispered.

"A new teaching-

and with authority!"

(Mark 1:27)

They saw Jesus' authority. But they didn't see,

why the demon appeared at that moment.

We'll look at that tomorrow.

Where is Jesus speaking sweetness into my heart-

and what rises to interrupt it?

When resistance rises

And Jesus draws close,

the enemy distracts to steal

what He plants in me.

But His authority is greater,

and His word stands firm.

Father, thank You for the authority of Your Son.

Guard my heart from every distraction

that distracts from His voice.

Let His words settle in me-

unhindered, sweet, and strong.

In Jesus' name, Amen.