



FOCUS: Three things we can expect Jesus to bring when we open the door to him:

(1) Authority. (2) Power. (3) Passion.

AUTHORITY TO TEACH US GOD'S TRUTH.

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.

- When we open the door to Jesus, he comes into our lives with God's truth.
- vs 14: Jesus calls this truth the "good news of God" or THE GOSPEL.
- Getting this good news into our lives is Jesus' top priority. vs 38 "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."
- The GOSPEL is the good news that God has come near to us through Jesus.
- Everything that Jesus does illustrates the goodness of being in relationship with God... healing, freedom from evil, forgiveness for sin.
- The authority people are feeling comes from Jesus' Sonship, Nature, Style... but also His Message.
- PAUL— For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes... Roman 1:16.
- God's truth has the power to free us, heal us and renew our relationship with God.

POWER TO FREE US FROM EVIL.

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!"

- Opening the door to Jesus invites his power into our lives.
- vs 7: John the Baptist: After me comes the one more powerful than I...
- The gospel is the power of God to destroy the power of evil over our lives.
- Evil is: moral, spiritual, and powerful.
 - Moral- choices that deviate from a standard of goodness.
 - Spiritual- the ultimate standard of goodness is God's truth.
 - Powerful- any power that overwhelms us with harm.
- The GOSPEL is the power of God to renew God's goodness... FREE US.
- Choosing to live without Jesus and his truth opens the door to evil to have power in our lives. But our choice to believe Jesus' good news opens the door to his power.

PASSION TO HEAL US.

40 A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." 41 Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!"

- When we open the door to Jesus, we discover his passion to heal us. This can be a tough topic because:
 - We've prayed for loved ones that weren't healed.
 - Maybe there's sickness in our life that isn't going away.
- Until Jesus returns again... we are in the engagement period... God has not fully moved in yet... but that time is coming... Rev 1:7 Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him.
- Yet God is still healing today. Later in series we'll go deeper on this.
- We have every reason to ask Jesus for healing and trust Him with the results.
- The passage says that Jesus is indignant. Grk (orheezo) anger, wrath, rage. Why? We know it can't be that he doesn't want to heal this man. "I am willing"... he's been healing people all night!
- The word PASSION comes from the latin. To endure suffering and to feel great emotion about something. Isaiah 53:4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering... Jesus came to place our suffering and pain upon his own shoulders.

This is the gospel. That by Jesus' suffering and death, he might free us from the root cause of all the evil and suffering in the world.

Isaiah 53:5 5 But he was pierced for our transgression, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

The good news is that Jesus came to HEAL something even more dangerous than cancer and fevers, he came to heal the very root cause of death... SIN. By placing our trust in him... the goodness of God begins to fill our lives.