

Sermon text: *Mark 1:21-28*

Title: "**Time to Move On**"

Today's text continues Mark's theme of "immediately", chop, chop, Jesus moving purposefully, acting authoritatively and decisively. Those who look to him are transformed, healed, cleansed, set free. Those who are suspicious build up growing resistance to his words and deeds.

What is Mark referring to as an **Unclean spirit**?

Spiritual world. *Ephesians 6:12* "For our fight is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, and against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." (Modern English Version)

God and God's angels. The Accuser and evil spirits. Idols or other gods.

The church teaches that the spiritual world as presented in the Bible is real and present, and that evil spirits and demon possession are real. That is what we **teach**, but there is room in the church for those who believe that evil spirits are human sickness and humans hurting each other.

Human experiences that seem unclean and as if a power beyond yourself was keeping you from breaking free, as well as goading you to harm yourself or others include the following:

Sleep deprivation, seizures, migraines, serious medical conditions, psychosis, severe depression, abandonment, trauma, anxiety, addiction, isolation, family patterns of life and relationships, ignorance, enslavement, being cursed, stuck in the past, unable to learn or process events, shame, fear, pride, jealousy, intellectual doubt, betrayal, experience of being uprooted culturally and geographically, emotional health, mental health, spiritual health. (Welcome to our world!)

The immediate compassion and power of Jesus the Christ.

He doesn't decide to come back another day to see if he can help.

"The Marcan Secret": Evil spirits and healed people are told not to tell anyone what they know.

Jesus commands the unclean spirit to be silent, although the spirit seems to be accurately saying who Christ was. Refusing to allow demons to speak through the mouth of humans made in God's image. Not needing the testimony of evil about Him. Not wanting humans to get their information about reality out of the mouth of evil. Denying the authority of the voice of evil.

Spirit naming Christ as an attempt to magically control him.

Operating on His own time. Jesus moves urgently and purposefully but has time to do everything that God has entrusted to him to do. He manages his own schedule.