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PASTOR'S

Perspective

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It appeared to be just an ordinary day in the synagogue. It was the Sabbath and Jesus was found there teaching. His teaching was not of the customary or the usual. In fact those who were there concluded that His teaching was astounding. They even said that He did not teach as the scribes taught. He taught as one having authority. In other words He knew what He was talking about and His teachings were so profound that they astonished the people who heard Him. In the congregation however, there was a man with an unclean spirit. At the hearing of

Jesus’ teaching and perhaps even more profoundly, just His presence, the unclean spirit cried out. “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” To this Jesus simply replied “Be silent and come out of him.” Then the next recorded words say the whole crowd was amazed. How about that? They were all amazed!

Amazing, astounding, astonishing, stupendous, stupefying, apply whatever word you wish but none can ever really come close or exacting in describing just what Jesus is. The people were all amazed because Jesus brought a new form or style of teaching. The unclean spirit was baffled because its power and sway over this man had roamed and ruled so freely for so long that it believed itself to be invincible. Thus it asked “what have you to do with us?” It knew that the presence and scope of Jesus was not only astonishing but it was overpowering enough to completely wipe it out! Its days of conquest and dominion were about to come to an end and for that day and even for ours that is astonishing. Jesus deals not only with our needs but He also deals with all of our paralysis and all the things that cripple, detain and enslave us. One writer, Charles Wesley, has said it this way: “He

breaks the power of cancelled sin, He sets the prisoner free, His blood can make the foulest clean- His blood availed for me!”

What do you need His astonishing power to do for you? What situation can you turn over to Him and allow Him to apply His wonder working power to the extent that you will declare Him and His way astonishing? What circumstance seems to dog and detain you to the point that it has taken over and consumes so much of your time, your energy, your thought and even compromises your life purpose? Name it, name the anguish that it causes you and then become tired of it having its way in your life. After you have done this simply cry out to Jesus pleading for His astonishing resolution in your life. You, too, will come to know the power of Jesus anew in your life and claim Him as astonishing! Right now I challenge you to try Him and see won’t He make good on His grace and peace in your life!



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