

## *Mark: The Mysterious Messiah*

Week 2: Mark 1:22–45

### Introductory Exercise

When Jesus begins his work in Capernaum, when and where does the first “unclean spirit” approach him? What does Mark’s choice of vocabulary here say about Jesus’s enemies, and what do the setting and the timing of this exorcism say literarily about the sources of opposition to Jesus?

Why does Jesus demand silence of the unclean spirit? What clues does the text give, and what have you heard in other contexts?

How soon after the encounter in the Synagogue does Jesus go to Simon’s house? What happens to the fire-sickness when Jesus takes her by the hand? When does the mass-healing begin, and what does this temporal setting signal literarily?

What does Jesus leave town to do before morning? When Simon and the others (who don’t have a collective title yet) find him, what do they ask him to do, and what is his response? What context is original for the verb Jesus uses for his own activity?

Mark 1:40 sees another reference to being “clean.” What might this pattern of vocabulary have signaled to a first-century hearer when this gospel got read in the Church? Why does this man’s request move Jesus’s innards? How soon does the leprosy leave? What’s so dangerous about connecting cleanness to the will of a Galilean, and why does Jesus insist that the man go see the priest? Why does Jesus command secrecy, and how well does the healed man follow those instructions?