

Weekly Take Home Devotions

SPIRITUAL GROWTH



**written by Pastor Tim each week*

Day One: Monday, January 30, 2012

Read Mark 1:21-28. Does anything surprise you about this passage? Here's a hint...it has to do with the recognition of who Jesus is. What is so important about Jesus' authority? How does Jesus' authority as the Word of God play out in your life? Pray.

Day Two: Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Read John 1:1-18. John describes the authority of Jesus in a different way. What does John say is the foundation of Jesus' authority? In other words, who is this Jesus? Do you take this reality seriously in your own life? If so, what difference does it make for you? Pray.

Day Three: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Read once again Mark 1:21-28. We live in a world of immediacy. Whether we are talking fast food, or the information highway, we have access to all kinds of things right at our fingertips. With all of that information, how do you go about discerning what is truth? Think about the top two or three truths in your life and how you know those truths to be true. Pray.

Day Four: Thursday, February 2, 2012

Focus today on Mark 1:21-22. What is the difference between Jesus' authority and the authority of the teachers of the law? Listen to C.S. Lewis: "The things He (Jesus) says are very different from what any other teacher has said. Others say, 'This is the truth about the Universe. This is the way you ought to go,' but He (Jesus) says, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.' He says, No one can reach absolute reality, except through Me. Try to retain your own life and you will be inevitably ruined. Give yourself away and your will be saved....come to Me everyone who is carrying a heavy load, I will set that right. Your sins, all of them, are wiped out; I can do that. I am Re-birth, I am Life. Eat Me, drink Me, I am your Food. And finally, do not be afraid; I have overcome the whole Universe.' That is the issue.'" What does that say to you? Pray.

Day Five: Friday, February 3, 2012

In addition to Mark 1:21-28, read also Luke 4:31-37, and John 8:31-36. Along with acknowledging the authority of Jesus comes ultimate freedom for the follower of Jesus. What could it have been like to be the one set free from the demons? While we don't know directly the response of this person, what do you think they did? Do you think this person lived for Jesus from that moment on? Do you see yourself set free from bondage to sin and death through the authority of Jesus? What will you do today with that freedom? Pray.

Day Six: Saturday, February 4, 2012

Read Acts 4. What is going on here? Notice the faith of the people. What are the blessings? What are the drawbacks? Notice how the people are empowered, filled with zeal and excitement. How have these people been transformed by the authority (power) of Jesus? How about you? Pray.

Lectioary texts for Sunday, February 5 are: **Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147:1-11, 20c, 1 Corinthians 9:16-23, and Mark 1:29-39.**