

# The Beginning of the Good News: Messianic Mission

The Gospel of Mark

# What is dominion of God?

- God rules all space and all time
- God does not honor our fences and walls
- Dominion is about:
  - (1) Mind space: God's instruction on how to live in fellowship with God and all creatures
  - (2) Patch space: the boundaries of God's love

# God's dominion vs Alpha dominion

- We seize patches and declares ourselves the Alpha of our patch
- Erect fences on our patches
- We create stories that enforce our dominion -
  - Aristotle - slave mentality; laziness of the former enslaved;
  - Freedom — If we knock down the fences and walls on the patches you've squatted on and enable all to share in the feast equally, it's a suppression of your freedom to hoard rather than a liberation from the unbelief that causes you to hoard
- Create hierarchies of human value and substitute our own definition of justice for God's creative justice —> our justice reinforces the hierarchy; God's justice destroys the hierarchy and reunites the separated

# Background/Recap

- Refugee of war context
- Fishers of humans
- Scribes and the controlling narrative
- When you can heal, where you can heal
- 24 hours - Temple/house/wilderness

## MARK 1:21–24

## MARK

Jesus and his followers went into Capernaum. Immediately on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and started teaching. The people were amazed by his teaching, for he was teaching them with authority, not like the legal experts. Suddenly, there in the synagogue, a person with an evil spirit screamed, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the holy one from God.”



# Scribes of Our Times

- Scribes control the patch's narrative
  - Can be inspired by God's Spirit or otherwise
- Scribes could be Sadducees or Pharisees
- Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
- Council of Seminary Presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention
- Trustee Committee on Woodrow Wilson's Legacy at Princeton
- Culture war warriors vs equal opportunity habitat, education, health

# Demonic possession

- Healthy Sapiens: personal center possessed by God's Spirit
- Demon - an inspiring force that dictates our actions
  - *Invasion* of the personal center that takes over the conn
- Distortions: muscles, genitalia, or head
- Distinction between the means of dispossession and the consequences
  - Mental blindness caused by disease, spirits, trauma, ideologies

"Silence!" Jesus said, speaking harshly to the demon. "Come out of him!" The unclean spirit shook him and screamed, then it came out.

MARK 1:25–27

MARK

Everyone was shaken and questioned among themselves, “What’s this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands unclean spirits and they obey him!”

After leaving the synagogue, Jesus, James, and John went home with Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed, sick with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once. He went to her, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her, and she served them.

# What does it mean to live?

- God animates us with breath so we can be touched by divine Spirit and thereby be restored in our capacity to be touched by our neighbor's Spirit
- Sapiens are relational - Cognitive revolution - capacity for widespread relations that give our lives depth because we are establish personal relationships -history of sociality with so many
- Life has changed not ended - creativity creates and strengthens these networks by which we manifest our sociality so that we continue to be touched by the departed
- Demons attack us at our capacity to relate and at our relations - our consequent sin destroys relationships
- Way of Love is about restoring our relational capacity

# Ethnomedicine vs Biomedicine

- Disease (pathogens) vs Illness (relational capacity)
- Cure (conquer pathogens) vs Quality of Life (living)
- *Soter* - to make whole ==> healing is about restoration of relational capacity

Early in the morning, well before sunrise, Jesus rose and went to a deserted place where he could be alone in prayer. Simon and those with him tracked him down. When they found him, they told him, “Everyone’s looking for you!”

He replied, “Let’s head in the other direction, to the nearby villages, so that I can preach there too. That’s why I’ve come.” He traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and throwing out demons.

# The Messianic Mission

- The Kingdom of God is about God's dominion in our mental and physical spaces
- Jesus the Messiah reclaims Kingdom space by speaking authoritatively to falsify our scribe's fictions
- Jesus the Messiah reclaims Kingdom space by healing our relational capacity so that we might enjoy the fullness of life within God's dominion
- The Good News: is reclaiming all spaces so that we may know that all time is filled with God's presence