



31 January – 6 February 2021 • Faith 24/7

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## Making an impression

 **Mark 1.21-28**

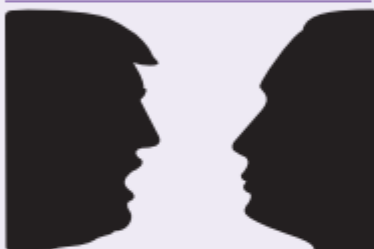
This scene is on the sabbath – the day of rest – and Jesus is in his home synagogue teaching the congregation. Jesus orders 'an unclean spirit' to be silent and come out of a man, and it leaves him with one last cry of defeat. Everyone is amazed at the authority of Jesus, whose words are realised in actions.

Now read **Mark 1.21-28** see p.2 for text.

### A note on the passage

Jesus astonished people by the authority of his teaching. Mark does not tell us what Jesus taught, but it is clear that it had a great impact on those who heard him. As did his healing of a man with an 'unclean spirit'. This is was something new and convincing. By his teaching and his actions, he revealed that he was – and is – is the 'Holy One of God'.

## HEADLINES



Check the news headlines and look for any figures of authority and bring them before God. Or use this image to help you think about particular figures of authority, past or present. Are there examples of authority being used well? Are there times when authority is misused?

You could say this prayer:

All authority in heaven and on earth belongs to you, God.

Bless and guide those in authority in our world. **Amen.**

# MAKE AN IMPRESSION

Notice the impressions you form of different people you meet this week. Think about what it is that makes a particular impression on you, i.e. is it how somebody looks? What they wear? How they speak? Certain movements they make? Consider the impression you may have on others. Think about how you come across and what opinions people may form of you. Reflect about whether there are any changes you want to make about what you do or say, in order to make a good impression.

## Coin rubbing

**You will need:** a large coin (e.g. a 2p or a 50p), a piece of paper, a crayon or pencil.

- Coins often carry an image of a person in authority.
- Take a coin and make an impression of it by placing it under a piece of paper and rubbing it gently with a crayon or pencil.
- If you had to come up with a motto that someone in authority should follow, what would it be? Write down your thoughts next to the coin rubbing.

## EVENING REFLECTION

Look back over your day and think of any times you have had power or authority over someone else. How did you exercise that authority? Now think of any times someone else had authority over you. How did they exercise that authority? How did it make you feel? You might like to write down some thoughts each night.

## Names for



The different names we use for God represent different aspects of God's authority. Find some quiet time to reflect on which name for God (one of these or one of your own) resonates with you most and think about why.

Creator; Father; Good shepherd; Lamb; Holy One; Almighty; Mother; Abba; Alpha and Omega; Lord.

This Tuesday (2 February) is when many Christians celebrate Candlemas – a feast to remember when Jesus was presented in the Temple and when Simeon, an old man there, recognised Jesus' authority, even as a baby. Simeon greeted Jesus as the light for the world. You may wish to light a candle and spend some time thinking about Jesus as light, and how that image makes you feel.



**Candlemas.**  
**The Presentation of Christ in the Temple.**  
*Luke chapter 2 verses 22-40*



When we see a new baby, we have no idea what life will hold. Ask if anyone remembers any words that were said about them as a baby or about their children – I hope he grows up to be David Beckham/she's got a very serious expression/he's going to be a comedian!! Mostly these are just idle, loving comments, but in Jesus' case it was very different. It seems a long time since Christmas but this is our last opportunity to look back at the infant Jesus. Special words tell us yet again that he is no ordinary baby. So many things have been giving us clues: stars, angels, special gifts – and now all of that is put into words. This baby is the light of God's salvation, a light for all the world. But even as we look back at the baby, Simeon's words to Mary make us look forward to the cross. He gives the first hint that the way to salvation is not going to be easy as he tells Mary that Jesus is going to challenge people and make her very sad.

We now turn from the crib to the cross.  
 We are looking back at the baby and looking forward to the man he will be.



*My kind of music evening on Zoom.*  
**On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 p.m. on Zoom we invite you to share with us one of your favourite pieces of music.**  
 Everyone is invited to submit one track to be played on the evening and we will all try and guess whose favourite music it is. Have some nibbles and a drink or two to hand.  
 Please submit a YouTube link of your choice or email a music file to Revd Rob by Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February. You will then receive the zoom link.

Daily Readings for week commencing 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2021		
<b>Monday</b>	Hosea 9	1 Corinthians 12: 12-end
<b>Tuesday</b>	Hosea 10	1 Corinthians 13
<b>Wednesday</b>	Hosea 11: 1-11	1 Corinthians 14: 1-19
<b>Thursday</b>	Hosea 11: 12-end of 12	1 Corinthians 14: 20-end
<b>Friday</b>	Hosea 13: 1-14	1 Corinthians 16: 1-9
<b>Saturday</b>	Hosea 14	1 Corinthians 16: 10-end

***Pray for those in need...***Sally, Zena, Katie-Louise, Pam, Sue, Bryn, Evelyn, Shane, Pat, Heather, Dorothy, Mandy and Joyce. ***Please remember those who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time...especially William, Bertha, Frederick, John and Lily.***