

Notes for 1.21–28

Observations:

- Parallel passages: Lk. 4.14–45, 31–47
- Compare the people’s response to the demon’s response: astonished, perplexed, curious vs. terrified, they know what is going on.
- This is the second Jesus is identified (voice from heaven while being baptized was the first).

Definitions:

- unclean: 169 akathartos ak-ath’-ar-tos from 1 (as a negative particle) and a presumed derivative of 2508 (meaning cleansed); impure (ceremonially, morally (lewd) or specially, (demonic)):-foul, unclean[3]
- sabbath: Ex.20.8, Dt. 5.12
- Holy One: 40 hagios hag’-ee-os from hagos (an awful thing) (compare 53, 2282); sacred (physically, pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially, consecrated):- (most) holy (one, thing), saint. see GREEK for 53 see GREEK for 2282[3]

OT references:

- The reality of evil spirits is not new in the NT. Saul (the first king of Israel in the OT) was tormented by an evil spirit.
 - Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him. And Saul’s servants said to him, “Behold now, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you. Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre, and when the evil spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well.” So Saul said to his servants, “Provide for me a man who can play well and bring him to me.” One of the young men answered, “Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the LORD is with him.” Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, “Send me David your son, who is with the sheep.” And Jesse took a donkey laden with bread and a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them by David his son to Saul. And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer. And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, “Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight.” And whenever the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him. (1Sam. 16.14–23)
 - And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?” And Saul eyed David from that day on. The next day a harmful spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand. And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, “I will pin David to the wall.” But David evaded him twice. (1Sam 18.8–11)
- Usage of the term “Holy One of Israel”:
 - Is. 41.14: “Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I am the one who helps you, declares the LORD; your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.”
 - Is. 43.14: “ Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “For your sake I send to Babylon and bring them all down as fugitives, even the Chaldeans, in the ships in which they rejoice.”

– Is. 45.11: “Thus says the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and the one who formed him: ‘Ask me of things to come; will you command me concerning my children and the work of my hands?’ ”

- Power over everything is a characteristic of God. (Ps. 33.8–11)

Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.

Questions:

- Generally speaking, what does it mean to have authority? What did it mean for Jesus to have it in this context? How was his authority demonstrated? (acts of power) Why in contrast did the scribes not have authority?
- Why was the unclean spirit afraid of Jesus? Why did Jesus command the unclean spirit to be silent? Why would he not want to be identified?
- What does this passage and the OT references indicate about part of Jesus’ purpose: set people free
- Have we learned anything about why Jesus went into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan?

References

- [1] *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, James Orr, General Editor, 1844-1913 ed.
- [2] *Webster’s Revised Unabridged Dictionary*, C. & G. Merriam Co. 1913
- [3] *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*, James Strong, 1890
- [4] *Merriam-Webster Online*, <http://www.webster.com/>, 2007