

## They Liked Listening to Him!

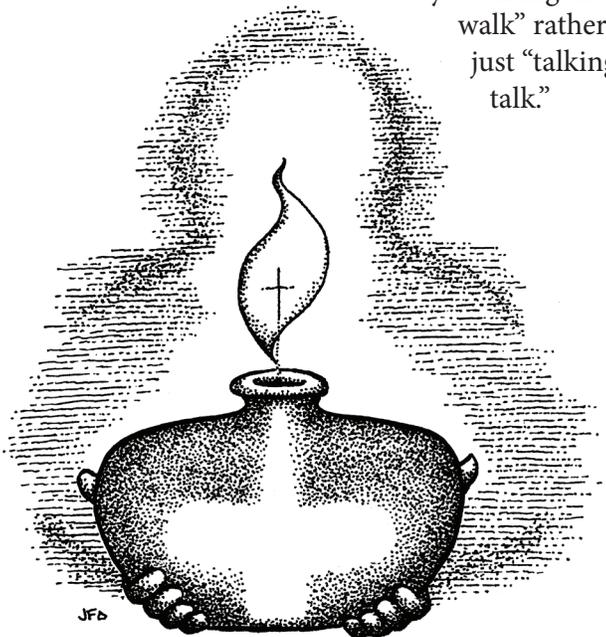
### This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Deuteronomy 18:15-20 - A prophet like Moses
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 - The state of virginity
- ▶ Mark 1:21-28 - Cure of a demoniac

It's easy to be impressed by all the miracles Jesus worked: he healed the sick, raised the dead, gave sight to the blind, and fed thousands starting with only a small amount of bread. What we might not always catch from hearing the gospels is what an amazing speaker and teacher Jesus was.

We've probably all had a mix of good, average, and bad teachers in our day. The bad ones might have bored us as they taught something that didn't seem very relevant. Maybe they didn't seem interested in us as individuals. Maybe they were rigid in the classroom. Perhaps they talked like know-it-alls and didn't have patience with students who "didn't get it" or didn't follow their directions exactly.

Then there are the great teachers. They are excited about what they are teaching, and they get the students excited about it too. They care about their students as individuals. They offer support and encouragement, but also expect a lot from their students, who usually rise to the occasion. Great teachers win the respect of their students by "walking the walk" rather than just "talking the talk."



THEY'RE VERY KIND AND THEY CARE FOR OTHERS. BUT NOBODY IS SPEAKING THE WORD OF GOD SO IT'S NOT EXACTLY A CHURCH... WHAT WOULD YOU CALL IT?

A NON-PROPHET ORGANIZATION.

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"I will raise up for them a prophet ... and will put my words into his mouth."

**Sheepish Question:**  
Why is simply living ethically and serving others not enough?

In this reading Mark gives us a glimpse of what people thought of Jesus as a teacher. For someone who didn't have all the fancy education that the scribes and Pharisees had, Jesus amazed and astonished the crowd with his words. The gospel doesn't tell us exactly what Jesus taught that day, but whatever it was thrilled and excited his listeners. They recognized him as having authority beyond the religious leaders who usually preached during their synagogue services. On top of that, Jesus matched his teaching with his actions when he healed the man with an unclean spirit. No wonder his fame spread throughout the whole region. People recognize a great teacher and leader when they see one.

## Questions of the Week

- 1 Talk about great teachers you've had in your life. What made them so good? Can you imagine Jesus having these same qualities as a teacher?
- 2 What do you think the difference was between Jesus teaching "as one having authority" and the teachings the people were used to by the scribes?