Sermon: **The people were all so amazed** (Mark 1.27)

Dynamo – illusionist. Amazing, even though we know it is only an illusion. TEXT.

The word amazed appears elsewhere in Mark’s Gospel
- 2.12, 5.20, 5.42, 6.2, 6.51, 7.37, 10.26, 11.18, 12.17, 15.5. What was so amazing about Jesus?

In our story – **The people who heard him were amazed at the way he taught** (1.22)

a) His words. Ever heard a speaker who made you listen?

Over the years successive Jewish teachers gave opinions on various topics, most ordinary teachers would quote them, not giving an authoritative judgement. Jesus was different. You only have to read the Sermon on the Mount and imagine hearing it for the first time to get an idea of this amazement.

b) Also his actions. Cake recipe, no good if only words, and you do not make the cake!
However you define miracles, they are at least events that create amazement (they are more than that).

In the ten occurrences of amazement above: paralysed man healed, Legion healed, Jairus’ daughter, wind dies down, dumb man speaks are from Jesus’ actions.

If Jesus was only an amazing teacher we would never have heard of him.

How do we react to this? Two things:

[1] Jesus is worth following – both his teaching and actions are inspirational. This is why we still read the Bible – Word for Today.

[2] How could *we* amaze *our* local community? It would need to be surprising, honest and Christ-like.

Eg carol singing for free at Cascade, Wales! In Meltham UK there was a free counselling/legal centre.

TEXT. All this would not be so that the community thinks *we* are amazing, but that *God* who inspires us is.