

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

Authority and Power of Jesus

Last time: Jesus moved to Capernaum and re-gathers His disciples, issuing a “full-time” call upon their lives...to make them fishers of men

This time...the Authority and Power of Jesus

We will be in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke...starting in Mark 1

Mark 1:21-34

The Gospel of Mark is more chronological than Luke and Matt, albeit briefer

v21-22 on the Sabbath day...astonished at His doctrine:

Having called Peter and Andrew, James and John to be full-time followers,
Jesus and the 4 of them, leaving their nets and ships behind, walk into
Capernaum

Then, on the Sabbath day, Jesus leads them into the synagogue, where He teaches
(read from the Prophets and gave the Teaching)

Noteworthy:

1. on the Sabbath

Hostile tensions arise between Jesus and His enemies

(Pharisees, Sadducees, scribes) because of the things He
did on the Sabbath...”work” violations

His enemies (religious men) sowed tares in the field in which He
sowed wheat

At the harvest, the tares (proudful, self-righteous) would stand tall
while the wheat (humble and meek believers/followers)
would bow down

But now, in the Galilee, there are no enemies “keeping book” and
looking to entrap Him for their own wicked agendas

The simple, hungry people of the Galilee would witness the
authority of His words and works

2. the people are astonished at Jesus’ teaching/word

They were spellbound

They were amazed by Jesus’ teaching, which was radically
different than the teaching of the scribes,
the professional teachers of the Law

3. Jesus taught with authority

No appeal to human authority like the scribes, but declaration of
Divine authority

Not what predecessors (man) had said, but what the Father in
heaven says

Not what some man had told Him, but what His Father in Heaven
gave Him to say

No traditions of men, but the revelation of God

No doctrines of man, but the doctrines of God

No clever, ear-ticking sayings, but straightforward, simple,
ear-tingling Truth

Jesus had authority

- of what?
- over what?

First, Jesus had authority of what?

By His teaching/doctrine/Word, Jesus demonstrates that He has the
authority of absolute, eternal, unchanging Truth

The scribes had the opinions/traditions/philosophies of men

Jesus has the authority of Truth (many things are true, there is 1 Truth)

Secondly, Jesus had authority over what?

Let's keep reading

v23-24 unclean spirit...what have we to do with You:

Present in the synagogue is a man with an unclean spirit...a demon

In the NT, having an unclean spirit means coming under the authority and
power of a demon...manifested by

- physical abuse (impact of the central nervous system)
- emotional/spiritual torment

In the OT, there is no Rabbinic "treatment" for unclean spirits associated with
magic, witchcraft, soothsaying, sorcery; demons and dabblers in
the spiritual realm were strictly God's domain

Lev 19:31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek
after wizards, to be defiled by them: I *am* the LORD your
God.

Lev 20:6 And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits,
and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even
set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from
among his people.

Deut 18:10-12 There shall not be found among you *any one* that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, *or* that useth divination, *or* an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things *are* an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

Notice the “captivated” man does not respond to Jesus and His teaching, but the “captivating” demon does!

Immediate: An objection to the presence of Jesus Christ

Type: “we” of the fallen spiritual realm

Knowledge of Jesus Christ:

- what Jesus is called by men: Jesus of Nazareth
- what Jesus is called by God: The Holy One of God
 - 42 x on OT (7 x 6)
 - 30 x in Isaiah (6 x 5)

v25-26 Jesus rebuked...unclean spirit...came out:

The unclean spirit initiated an interaction with Jesus Christ...

Jesus finished it – merely with His Word

Jesus rebukes the demon and commands it to

- be quiet...silence, a “gag order”
- come out of the man...to leave the man alone

The unclean spirit/demon

- objects/resists
 - tearing the man...throwing him around, convulsing him with an epileptic-like seizure
 - crying out with a loud voice (NOT a still small voice)
- obeys
 - surrenders authority and power over the man
 - flees

Jesus has authority over what?

- unclean spirits, demons
- the spiritual realm

According to the Law and Prophets, Jesus Christ is...
the LORD God Himself, in their midst

The man:

- Any profession of faith?
- Is set free from the authority and power of the unclean spirit/demon by God...the Person and Word of Jesus Christ

The demon

- must resist...expression of its will
- but cannot resist...by the very Presence and Word of God

Jesus Christ did not contend/fight...He is the Almighty God
He speaks and victory is His!
He speaks and the demon is defeated!
He speaks and the prisoner is set free!

How do the people in the synagogue, the on-lookers, respond?

v27-28 they were all amazed:

WHAAAAT?!

We have never seen nor heard anything like this!!!

The Rabbis, Pharisees, and scribes not only never taught like this,
they never exercised any authority like this!

Even the unclean spirits are subject to and obey the commands of Jesus of
Nazareth!

So...the first recorded healing by Jesus in Capernaum is spiritual...
ground-breaking and very “telling” about His identity!

The demons KNOW Who He is and believe (James 2:19)...
but it is too late for them (Jude 6)

The people do not know Who He is and do not believe...
but is it is not too late (why Jesus came, with grace and truth)

What else does Jesus have authority over?

Let's keep reading

v29-31 sick of a fever...the fever left her:

Having concluded His business in the synagogue on this Sabbath day,
Jesus goes with “them” of v21 into Peter’s and Andrew’s home
Peter’s mother-in-law (he is married) is “sick with a fever” and they immediately
tell Jesus

Jesus went to her, took her by the hand, helped her to her feet...
and the fever immediately left her
Jesus has authority over physical sicknesses and diseases

v32-34 when the sun did set...brought unto Him...healed...cast out:

Jesus began His day in the synagogue
He spent the afternoon healing Peter’s mother-in-law and enjoying the fellowship
of His disciples/followers in Peter’s house

At sunset...

- late summer...hot in the day
- after the Sabbath when people felt free to move about, having satisfied
the traditions, doctrines/teachings, and religion of man

Jesus gets very busy!

Word has spread rapidly about what Jesus has done in the morning and in the
afternoon, so all who

- heard
- were desperate and without hope
- needed the touch of God

came to Peter and Andrew’s house to see Jesus...to be healed of physical diseases
and spiritual torment by demons

And Jesus, with authority over creation (both physical and spiritual),
healed and “cleansed” the people

Sickness, disease, demonic activity...corruption of a perfect creation,
all consequences of sin

Jesus came to

- defeat sin and to destroy the works of the devil and his
kingdom of darkness
- heal and save

suffered not the devils to speak:

Why did Jesus impose a gag order on all the “homeless” demons?
Let’s go to Luke 4 to “fill out” our understanding

Luke 4:31-41

The Gospel of Luke is written to the Gentiles/Romans

v31-32 his word was with power:

In Mark, Jesus spoke with authority
Here, He speaks with power

Remember, the Gospel of Luke is written to the Gentiles/Romans,
citizens of a worldly kingdom that did not tolerate any rival power

v33-37 authority and power...word:

Linked in v36: authority, power, and the Word of God

Matt 28:18

All authority and power is in the Living Word of God
Therefore, no authority and no power is in the word of man...
traditions, philosophies, doctrines, commandments, religions

No such power and authority had ever been seen...not even by the Roman Empire
The fame/reputation/popularity of Jesus went...every place in Galilee of the
Gentiles

Jesus will find Himself being opposed by Religion and Gov't

v38-39 great fever:

An added detail via "Dr. Luke" – a great fever
It is a violent burning fever that has afflicted Peter's mother-in-law

The Rabbis "treated" such a fever with a mixture of Scripture
(reading the account of the burning bush for several days) and an
weird concoction after a bush had been cut down
I'm willing to bet that their success rate was zero

What did Jesus do?

Another detail via Dr Luke

He rebuked the fever like He had rebuked the demon that morning
He rebuked the consequence of sin...and the fever like the demon
left immediately

v40 all...any...every one:

More important details thru Dr Luke regarding the healing of the multitude that came to Peter's and Andrew's house that night:

- all
- any
- every one

No disease was/is beyond the healing touch of Jesus Christ
No demon was/is more powerful than Jesus Christ
No situation was/is hopeless in the presence of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is hyper-inclusive
Jesus Christ is all-powerful

v41 Christ the Son of God:

The devils KNEW Who they were up against:

- the Holy One of God (Mark)
- Christ/Messiah
- Son of God (Dan 3:25)
- God Himself

Why would Jesus put a gag order on them?

Because they knew Who He was...and He did not want their testimony

Acceptable testimony of Jesus Christ at this point: the revelation of God

- The Father's (Ch 3:22)
- His works and His words (given Him by the Father)

Not acceptable testimony of Jesus Christ at this point:

- the devils...John 8:44
- man's...John 2:23-25, Rom 3:4 (thus the magnitude of Jesus' testimony of John the Baptist in Matt 11:7-11)

As Jesus

- says what the Father sent Him to say and does what the Father sent Him to do
- reveals His Identity/Person/Nature
- pours His life into His disciples/followers
- witnesses of the Truth to the people
- confronts the traditions/philosophies/religions of man

He will not tolerate being identified by liars

Let's go to Matt 8 to further "fill out" our understanding

Matt 8:14-17

The Gospel of Matt is NOT chronological and is written to the Jews
Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Son of David, King of Israel

v14-17 be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet:

Is 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs (diseases, sickness), and carried our sorrows

Is 53 is about a Person, not a people...about Jesus Christ, not Israel

Jesus is our Healer

- physical disease and sickness
- emotional pain and sorrow
- spiritual pain and sorrow

because He took them on Himself...He took away the power of them over us

The Authority and Power of Jesus Christ...

- of Truth...absolute, eternal, unchanging Truth (there is only 1 Truth)
- over demons...the spiritual realm of creation
- over sicknesses and diseases...the physical realm of creation

is

- in His Person and in His Word
- hyper-exclusive (John 14:6) and hyper-inclusive (John 6:37)

Jesus Christ is the LORD God Himself, the Word made flesh
Matt 28:18

Our Authority (Final Authority) is the Word of God...alive, powerful, sharper than a (Roman)
two-edged sword

Our Power is the indwelling Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ

By the power of the Spirit of God, I stand on the Word of God, the revelation of God...
NOT on the doctrines/traditions/philosophies/commandments/religions of man

Mark 7:1-13

Col 2:6-8, 20-22

Matt 7:21-29

lay aside/reject the Word of God, making it of none effect
we are dead to the traditions etc of man (no power over us)

The revelation of God = foundation of Rock

Authority, power

The traditions etc of man = foundation of sand

No authority, no power

I stand on the Word of God...God's world view
I stand against the world view of man...traditions/philosophies held by Gov'ts and Religions
I will be opposed by both Gov't and Religion...as was John the Baptist and Jesus Christ
(we will develop this lesson as we move forward)

Family Life Radio on 9/3/15: "Do something for 40 days. See how it changes your life."
Something: What? On what authority?
40 days: doctrines of man (Rick Warren), ecumenicalism...not revelation of God
Drivel!

Jesus warned us:

- "Beware the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." (Matt 16:6)
- "Get behind me, Satan for you are an offense to Me. You savor not the things of God but the things of men" (Matt 16:23)

In spite of all their talk about God, the ecumenical OWReligious, philosophers, humanists that will cooperate with OWG/NWO think we Bible-believing followers of Jesus Christ are

- foolish
- false
- irrational
- wicked
- illegal (county clerk in KY)
- dangerous

They will be

- many
- loud
- condemning
- persecuting
- wrong

For they boast in their knowledge of God...yet know not the Word of God
They have no authority, no power
They rest on personal opinion and what they have been told by someone else

Where do you stand?
Who will oppose you?

Prov 2:1-5
Matt 28:18