

Weaving the Word

Teaching with Authority

Part 9 – June 22, 2014

Welcome to the place where we seek God's Truth and submit to His authority.

Today, we're weaving together Jesus' 3½ year mission in the Gospels.



How much authority does Jesus have?

Jesus came to them and said, "**All authority** in heaven and on earth **has been given to me**. Therefore go and *make* disciples ... teaching them to *obey* everything I have *commanded* you."

– Matthew 28:18-20a NIV

So, how much authority does Jesus *have*?

Hmm ... *all* authority was *given* to Him. And, He certainly has the power to exercise *all* authority at will. But, He's *relinquished* quite a bit of His authority to *our* free will ... *for now*.

Authority is the power to force people to submit and obey. That's *taking* authority.



But, authority is also the power to influence those who respect your wisdom, actions, or character. That's *offering* authority.

Jesus didn't take authority as much as He *gave* authority. And, *that* kind of authority comes from a position of *true* power. He tells *His* disciples to go and "**make disciples**" ... *how*?



By "**teaching**", not *forcing*; Jesus only allows Himself as much authority in your life as *you're* willing to give ... *for now*. So, how much authority does Jesus have ... *in your life*?

When we left off, Andy, Pete, Jim, and John left their nets to follow Jesus throughout Galilee as he taught in the countryside synagogues. *And then* ...



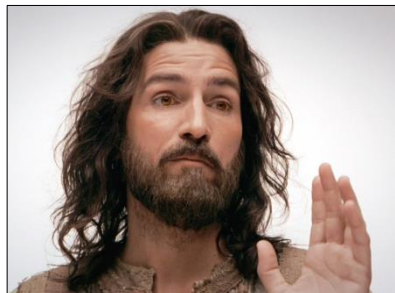
They went **[back]** to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. **[That's the synagogue; it was destroyed in 70^{AD} and rebuilt on the same black stone foundation]** The people were *amazed* at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. **[who took authority]** – Mark 1:21-22 NIV

Mark doesn't tell us what Jesus taught, just that His listeners were amazed.

What do you suppose He said in that synagogue?

Was He teaching something different? Yes! Something new? Not really.

Ever tell a story or give instructions and then hear someone try to retell it ... *all wrong*? And you think, "That's not what I said. That's not even what I meant. You're changing it. You're running it. It doesn't even make sense."



No one taught like Jesus because **He spoke as the Author, not a scribe. He taught as the Originator, not an interpreter.**

Because He was! **He wasn't rewriting the Law; He was reinstating and restoring it to how He'd originally intended and inspired it.**

Wouldn't you *love* to know what He said? You can!

If we weave in Matthew's account, we can see what Jesus was teaching in the countryside synagogues throughout Galilee just prior to this! And guess what He did again and again. **He challenged them to distinguish what He was teaching from what their teachers had long taught.**

For example, four examples ...



"You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." – Mat 5:27-28 NIV



"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' But I tell you, Do not swear at all ... Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No' ..." – Mat 5:33-34a, 37 NIV



"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also." – Mat 5:38-39 NIV



"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven." – Mat 5:43-45a NIV

The countryside around Galilee

Jesus' goal *always* is to get to the heart of the matter.



A wooded trail in Galilee

The conquering power in Jesus' ongoing challenge to embrace the intention of the Law commanded awe and eclipsed the religious wimps who demanded dutiful bondage to the letter of the Law.

The teachers were teaching how to serve the Law. But, Jesus was revealing how to reflect the Law-giver, which has been, of course, the intention of God's instructions from day one. It's night and day. Death and life. Religion and reflection.

Jesus' one demand is that we choose to *give* Him prime command in our life.

I'm a lot like Jesus in many ways. Not because of any effort on my part, but how I'm wired. So are you. So **don't measure His authority when you're obeying what you naturally enjoy doing.**

You'll get a false reading.

The *effortless* things you do, that *naturally* reflect the Lord, are more coincidence than obedience.

Measure Jesus' authority when you obey what you'd rather not.

Like, in your home. In your marriage. Know when things turned a corner for how I treat my wife? When I realized that God is my Father ... *in law!* And I started addressing Him that way.

Want to change your marriage? Change your *attitude*; change the way you see your spouse. Do you *want* to give Jesus the authority to change you that way?

For 30 days, address God as your Father-in-law. You'll start seeing all kinds of icky evil things in yourself that you've learned to overlook.

You'll see how much authority Jesus actually has in your life.

The chief marker that shows you've marked Jesus as your Chief is when those sinful things inside begin to reveal themselves, and you're overcoming 'em and expelling 'em by His authority.



Now, right here in this synagogue in Capernaum, right now in the story, right in the midst of telling us about Jesus' authority, Mark and Luke both break in with the account of the demonic outburst!

Let's weave the Word!

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ... and on the Sabbath began to teach the people. ... The people were amazed at his teaching, ... They were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority. ... because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. ... In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an evil spirit. ... Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, ... He cried out at the top of his voice, ... “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? ... “Ha! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? ... Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” ... Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” ... “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” ... “Be quiet!” Jesus said sternly. “Come out of him!” Then the demon threw the man down before them all ... The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. ... and came out without injuring him. [This is funny; Mark is all about action, that’s why God had him write the Gospel to the Romans. He’s like, “It was awesome and violent!” But, the good doctor, Luke, makes sure we know the man was okay] All the people were amazed ... The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? ... and said to each other, “What is this teaching? ... A new teaching [Not really; but it was new to them]—and with authority! [The chief marker is when those evil things begin to reveal themselves and are overcome and expelled by Jesus’ authority and power] ... With authority and power ... He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him.” ... he gives orders to evil spirits and they come out!” And the news about him spread ... News about him spread quickly ... throughout the surrounding area. ... over the whole region of Galilee. – Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37 NIV

You know the weirdest part of this story? **Until Jesus showed up with His true power and actual authority, that demon was quite comfortable sitting in that synagogue!**

The foundation’s still there, but that demon’s *long gone!* But, **would he be comfortable sitting in your home? Your marriage? Your office? Your workplace? Your classroom? Your car?**

“Anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” This includes the internet. How much authority does Jesus have? **When you’re feeling neglected and lonely and the world says it’s okay as long as it doesn’t “hurt” anyone, who has the authority?**

“Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’” **When the truth will hurt and the only one who’ll know is Jesus, who has the authority?**

“If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.” This includes your Face ... *book*. How much authority does Jesus have? **When you’re offended, degraded, and disrespected in a public forum and you have a killer comeback, who has the authority?**

“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” **When you want *them* to apologize before *you’ll* apologize, who has the authority?**

Jesus doesn’t leave us on our own to get it right.

He’s offered His authoritative Word to teach us; He’s offered His Holy Spirit to lead and empower us; and, He’s offered His shed blood to cover whatever we can’t.