

THE SUPERNATURAL AUTHORITY OF JESUS

“For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.”

Introduction:

1. **We are in a series on the Miracles of Jesus...**
 - a. We’ve seen Jesus power over Nature... Turning Water into Wine
 - b. We’ve seen Jesus Power over Disease... Healing a Royal Official’s Son
 - c. But in a Synagog service in Capernaum we see
Jesus power over Demonic Forces of Darkness (Mark 1:21-28)
2. **One Preacher said:** “You can just see a couple in the back of Synagog...”
 - a. “They’re quietly leaving... We’re never coming here again!”
3. **Jesus power over spiritual forces of darkness is Shocking & Undeniable!**

I. THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS TEACHING (1:21–22)

A. JESUS TEACHES AT THE SYNAGOG IN CAPERNAUM

1. **The Synagog in Capernaum has been located by archeologists [IMAGES]**
2. **Jewish Synagogs in 1st century did not use a regular speaker every week**
 - a) They had visiting teachers speak (like guest speakers)
 - b) Including those of the local Jewish community
 - c) This explains why Jesus would be teaching and preaching in Synagogs

B. JESUS TEACHES WITH AUTHORITY

1. **Jesus Teaching Astonished the People...**
 - a) **The word Astonished means:** “to be stricken as by a blow; to be dumbfounded”
 - b) Jesus' preaching left them thunder-struck!
 - c) It was Passionate, Powerful, Profound and it Packed a Punch
2. **He taught as one having authority, not like the scribes**
 - a) Scribes Taught Second-Hand Theology — Quoting well-known rabbis as authority
 - b) They were drawing water from broken cisterns,
but Jesus is the Fountain of Living Waters!
3. **But Jesus Didn’t Appeal to the Quotes or Sayings of others...**
 - a) In fact He did just the opposite!
 - b) “You’ve heard it said...” “But I say to you...” — Jesus Was a Master Teacher!

C. JESUS AUTHORITY WAS UNDENIABLE

1. **Even His Enemies could not deny His authority!**
 - a) **The Scribes & Lawyers Who Tried to Trap Him Were Publicly Humiliated!**
 - (1) After suffering several humiliating defeats we read:
“And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.” (Matt 22:46)
 - b) **When soldiers of the Temple guard were sent to arrest Jesus**
 - (1) They came back empty handed! — “No one ever spoke like this man!” (Jn 7:46)

Jesus Authority Did Not Only Emanate from His Teaching—But Also His Power!

II. THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS POWER (1:23–28)

A. A MAN WITH AN ‘UNCLEAN SPIRIT’ — at worship services!

1. What is an “unclean spirit”?

- a) In Luke’s account of this same event it reads “Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon.” (Lk 4:33)
- b) The Two Are Synonymous — An Unclean Spirit is a Demon

2. What Are Demons?

- a) **The old KJV gave a poor translation of the Greek as: “devils”**
 - (1) The Greek word for devil is *diabolos*.
 - (2) But Greek, *daimonizomai*, *daimon* and *daimonion*, are transliterated “demon(s)”
- b) **There is one Devil but many demons**
- c) **The NT Gives Some Details** About the Existence and Nature of Demons, but practically nothing about their origin.

3. THREE THEORIES about Demons:

- a) **FIRST: That they Don’t Exist—They can’t be seen, can’t be proven,**
Demonic activity is simply an ancient superstition to explain mental illness such as schizophrenia (hearing voices, or split-personality)
- b) **SECOND: They DO Exist—But are the souls of deceased human beings,**
roaming earth and wanting to re-inhabit a human body.
- c) **THIRD: They DO Exist—but are angels (fallen angels) spiritual beings** created by God but who rebelled with Satan and were cast out of heaven (**Rev 12:7-9; 12**)

4. What Does the Bible Say About Demons?

- a) **Demons Exist (Mk 1:23; Mt. 4:24).**
- b) **Demons are not atheists - they ‘believe and tremble’ (James 2:19).**
- c) **Demons do not deny the Deity of Christ (Mark 1:24; 3:11).**
- d) **Demons acknowledge the authority of Jesus Christ (Lk. 8:31).**
- e) **Demons do not deny personal accountability (Mt. 8:29).**
- f) **Demons do not deny the existence of Hell (Mt. 8:29; James 2:19).**
- g) **Demons promote false doctrines (1 Tim 4:1 “doctrines of demons”)**
- h) **Demons promote false worship (Dt 32:17; Ps. 106:37; Rev. 9:20)**
- i) **Demons promote the rebellion of satan against God (Rev. 16:13-16)**

B. THE DEMON’S REACTION TO JESUS AUTHORITY

1. **‘Let Us Alone’** (plural: either of itself and it’s host or more than one demon)

- a) I Wonder, How long Has This Man attended This Synagog possessed by demon?
- b) “Leave Me Alone!” This is the Demand of Everyone in Rebellion to God
- c) Don’t Talk To Me About the Bible, Don’t Talk to Me About God
- d) **EX: A Young Boy was Kidnapped and thrown in back seat of a car—but while kidnapper was driving the boy sang Bible songs—Kidnapper stopped let him go**

2. 'What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth?'

- a) **Implied answer: NOTHING!** Those in Rebellion to God Want Nothing to Do w/ Him
- b) **EX: When Lisa was in college a man kept calling Apt. she shared w/ several girls**
- c) He Would Call and Breathe Heavy on the Phone w/ inappropriate questions/remarks
- d) Lisa set a bible next to phone and when he called she started reading it over phone
- e) He couldn't handle it! STOP! – Finally he said, "YOUR CRAZY!" never called back!

3. 'Did You come to destroy us?'

- a) (why this question?) Unless This Demon Knew the Truth—A time of Judgement
- b) Unbelievers are Living a Lie—but deep down their own conscience knows...
- c) There is a God and There will be a Judgement Day!

4. 'I know who You are—the Holy One of God!'

- a) **Q: Who's the better theologian: the demon or liberal skeptic Bible scholars?**
 - (1) Demons Know the Truth! (Hendriksen)

- b) **Q: But Why Did this Demon Testify of the Truth?**

- (1) You would think the demons would NOT want to testify of the Truth
- (2) Why Tell Others this Jesus is the Holy One of God? (weren't forced to by Jesus)

—>Trench believed their motivation then was in the "Hope that the truth itself might be brought into suspicion and discredit it by receiving attestation from the spirit of lies."

- c) **Q: Why Didn't Jesus Allow This Demon to Testify of the Truth?**

- (1) Because Jesus doesn't need the Darkness to testify of the Light
- (2) Or the kingdom of evil to testify of the kingdom of God
- (3) Or Hell to witness of Heaven,

—> "Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him." (Mark 1:34)

C. JESUS AUTHORITY OVER DEMONS

1. **This Demon Had Possessed a Man...**
2. **The Demon Cried Out in the Presence and Power of Jesus...**
3. **The Demon Knew Who Jesus Was...**
4. **The Demon Was Cast Out by Jesus**
 - a) No incantations, no elaborate ceremony, — A Command of Complete Authority
5. **Showing Not Only His Power but His Compassion on the Man Possessed!**

III. THE LESSONS FOR US

A. THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE IS REAL

1. **God's Word is Clear—SATAN is Real, DEMONS are Real, EVIL is real**

- a) Trying to excuse evil as mental illness is False
- b) The Bible is Clear and Makes A Clear Distinction between the two !

"Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him." (Mark 1:34)

2. **Preacher Do You Believe Demons Exist? Even in Demon Possession?**

- a) **Do I Believe Demons Exist? YES** I believe the Bible which says they do
- b) **Do I Believe in Modern Day Demon Possession? NO** Not in way it is portrayed in modern media or movies (levitating off floor, against persons will)
- c) **Do I Believe in Modern Day Demonic Influence? YES**

B. SATAN'S PRIMARY WEAPON IS NOT POSSESSION BUT DECEPTION!

1. (Ephesians 6:10–13 ESV)

- a) **TWO MISTAKES:** CS Lewis once said: “There are two equal and opposite errors we can fall into about demons: One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors.”
- 2. **(1 Peter 5:8) Like a Dog Bound By a Chain—as long as you are outside the length of Chain, safe—but enter into his realm your not**

C. DEMONS BELIEVE AND TREMBLE BECAUSE THEY KNOW THEY WILL BE JUDGED BY GOD

- 1. **The Demon Knew Who Jesus Was & Feared What Jesus would Do (Mk 1:24)**
 - a) Demons Understood A Time of Judgement Would Come (Lk 8:28–31)
 - b) This wasn't an isolated question or incident—They Know they'll Be Judged (Jude 6)
- 2. **Do You See Why Demons Believe and Tremble? (James 2:19)**

D. JESUS HAS ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND EARTH

- 1. **Even the Spiritual Forces of Darkness Recognize Jesus Authority!**
> THREE INTERESTING FACTS TO CONSIDER
 - a) **FIRST:** “There is more recorded demonic activity during Jesus' life and ministry than any other time in biblical history.” (Baker's Evangelical Dictionary)
 - b) **SECOND:** At the time Jesus came to earth to defeat and destroy the work of Satan, “it would only be reasonable to expect that the most intensive activity of Satan would have been multiplied in opposition to the Lord's work.” (JB Coffman)
 - c) **THIRD: The Victory of Christ Over Satan, Sin and Death** would therefore explain the disappearance or diminished activity of demonic phenomena today
- 2. **Even Before the Cross Jesus Delegated power over the enemy (Lk 10:17–20)**
 - a) “for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.” (1 John 3:8)

CONCLUSION:

- 1. **Only Jesus Can Set You Free! (Hebrews 2:14–15)**
 - a) Only Jesus Has Power Over Satan, Sin and Death!
- 2. **Jesus Had Compassion on this Man By Casting Out the Demon!**
 - a) And He Has Compassion on Us When We Trust and Obey
- 3. **War is won but Battles Still continue Because Satan Still Hates God**
 - a) (1 John 4:4) But He that is in you is greater than he who is in the world!