



# NETCAST ORIGINAL DEVOTIONALS

**Series:** Knowing Jesus

**Date:** March 2, 2026

**Scripture:** Mark 1: 21-28

**Title:** Authority To Live By

**Author:** Esther Baird

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**Read:** [Mark 1: 21-28](#)

## **Devotional:**

Rarely - - and I mean rarely - - have I been asked to be a substitute teacher at the school our girls attended. I knew they were desperate when I got that call. Still, I did my best to follow the pre-planned schedule, usually in a preschool classroom, and usually for only an hour or two during teacher meetings.

“Okay boys and girls, it’s center time. Everyone can go to their station and we’ll rotate,” I’d announce.

The stations included a sensory sand table, blocks, cars and trucks, animals, and coloring. And at first, things seemed mostly fine. Sure, someone was building a monster-truck ramp in the sand table, animals were being corralled into a block fortress, and if little Bobby had marker on his eyebrow, well, he was alive, wasn’t he?

Almost every time, when the real teacher came back in, she’d laugh at what was clearly not the plan.

“Oh boys and girls, is this how we do center time?” she’d say. “Let’s show Mrs. Baird the right way to play.”

Immediately, there was a great reshuffling. The volume dropped to a peaceful babble, and all the station items returned to their proper places. When the real teacher spoke, obedience followed. These were three- and four-year-olds, but they knew exactly who was in charge the moment they heard her voice.

Our passage today is like that. On the surface, it’s a straightforward story of Jesus teaching in a synagogue. The people were astonished because he taught with authority - - not like the scribes. But then a demon-possessed man interrupted the service.



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## **Devotional cont.**

We don't know why he was there. Did he sneak in? Did the demons drive him there? Did some part of him know he needed help? Scripture doesn't say. What we do know is that suddenly, in the middle of worship, there was a confrontation between Jesus and the demons possessing the man.

Only it wasn't much of a confrontation.

The demons immediately recognized Jesus. There was no debate, no confusion. They knew he was "the Holy One of God," and they knew he had the power to destroy them. That's why they asked if that was his intention. The ultimate answer was yes... but for the moment, Jesus simply commanded them to come out.

And they did.

Jesus didn't perform a ritual or argue his case. His word was the *command and the catalyst*. The moment Jesus speaks, reality obeys. Jesus is the living Word of God. What he says is always true.

We all experience limited authority - - at work, at home, with our kids (teen parents, try not to laugh), or maybe some days the best we can aspire to is ordering our coffee without being questioned. But none of us has all authority. None of us can command reality itself.

Jesus can.

And what's so amazing is that Jesus uses his authority on our behalf. He uses it to call people out of darkness, to set captives free, to promise a future with no more tears and no more death. And because Jesus has spoken those promises, they are already true, even when we don't yet see or feel them.

This week, what would it look like to live as if what Jesus says is your actual reality? Do you trust him with full authority over your life? Do you know him as the Holy One of God?



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## Reflection Questions:

- The people were astonished by Jesus' teaching because he spoke with authority. How is Jesus' authority different from other voices you listen to or trust?
- The demons recognized Jesus immediately as "the Holy One of God." What does this reveal about who Jesus truly is, even when humans struggle to understand him?
- Jesus' command alone was enough to bring freedom to the possessed man. Where in your life do you need to trust that Jesus' word has power to bring change?
- This confrontation happens in the middle of worship. What does this passage teach us about bringing our brokenness and darkness into Jesus' presence?

## Notes:

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