

Can **I just ask** you a **question**  
**Right up front** this morning?

**Where does** the **Authority** of **Jesus** Christ  
**RANK in your Life?**

& – **I'm not** asking you **Intellectually** – or **Hypothetically**

**As in** – **Where SHOULD**  
**the Authority of Jesus Christ - RANK in your life**

I'm **asking** you to **honestly consider**

**Where – Does the REAL AUTHORITY of Jesus Christ – RANK:**

**In** your **CHOICES**

**In** your **ACTIONS**

**In** your **DECISIONS**

**& In** the **DIRECTION** of your Life?

**Let's Pray**

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**Last week** – we **looked** at Jesus **CALLING** his first **Disciples**  
In "**Answer the Call**"

& - **in the end** – we said

**If we will Put our Full Faith in Jesus**  
**& COMMIT to Follow him always**

That **he** would **Make us** into - His **MASTERPIECE**,  
**Make us – a New Creation**

& he would **ENABLE** us **TO DO**  
The **Good Things** He **Created** us **TO DO**

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& then **IMMEDIATELY after** that – **Mark** puts **On Display**  
The **RADICAL AUTHORITY** of Jesus

& **Mark doesn't connect** things **Randomly**

& so – it **seems** to me  
**Mark wants** us to **see** the **Connection**

**Between Answering the Call** - to become Disciples

& **Coming to grips** - with **the**  
**Radical - REAL AUTHORITY** of **Jesus** Christ

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It **starts off** simple enough

### **Mark 1:21 (NLT)**

***21 Jesus and his companions (Disciples) went to the town of Capernaum. When the Sabbath day came, he went into the synagogue and began to teach.***

At the very beginning of his Public Ministry  
Jesus made Capernaum his home town

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We know that – because when we go to Capernaum  
there's a sign there that says *"The Home Town of Jesus"*

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Actually – there are a number of great reasons  
Jesus made Capernaum his home town

& if you come to Israel with us some day  
I'll tell you all about them

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But - there are the ruins of a synagogue there  
that we love to go into

the walls were built in the 4<sup>th</sup> century - (the Byzantine church time)

But - it was built right on top of –  
& exactly matching the footprint

of the original synagogue - that Jesus is teaching in here

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So – V.21 says – Jesus & his Disciples  
MOVE into Capernaum

& when the Sabbath comes –  
Jesus goes into the Synagogue - & begins to TEACH

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& then immediately – In the Next Vs – we read

**Mark 1:22 (NLT)**

***22 The people were amazed at his teaching, for he taught with real authority—quite unlike the teachers of religious law.***

**As soon as this “New Teacher” - begins teaching  
The people were AMAZED**

**Because he taught with REAL AUTHORITY!**

V.22 says – **Quite Unlike the teachers of religious law**

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**It's because**

**Jesus spoke - NOT like - a teacher EXPOUNDING God's Word  
Jesus spoke like - the AUTHOR of God's Word**

**Jesus didn't teach - ABOUT the Word of God  
Jesus - WAS the Word of God**

He had **REAL AUTHORITY** - & the **People** were **REALLY AMAZED**

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The **Scribes** and **Pharisees** - would **almost always** teach

By **quoting** other **authorities** - and **experts** on **Religious** things

**Much like we see today - in Some Preachers**

who **base** their **authority** on their **Degrees**  
& on **what** the **books** of their **particular denomination** say

**Jesus did NONE of that**

**Jesus taught - on His Own Authority**

**& Jesus taught - with the Authority of GOD**

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In **Luke Ch 4** – **Luke** is **describing** this **same scene**

& **here's** how One **EXPANDED Translation** **describes** it

**LUKE 4:32 (WUESTNT)**

***32 . . . And [Jesus] was teaching them on the sabbath. And they were struck with astonishment to the point of a mental imbalance by reason of His teaching, because His discourse was characterized by authority.***

Just **THINK with me** for a **Minute**

is **THAT** how **the church today**  
**receives** the **teaching** of **Jesus**?

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**One commentator** calls this being **THUNDER-STRUCK**

The **people** were **THUNDER-STRUCK**  
By the **Authority of Jesus**

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**Tell me this . . .**

**Have you ever said to another Christian**

***You know, the Word of God actually commands us  
To do THIS – in THIS Situation***

**& have you had that person quickly  
Start DEFENDING their Actions**

**Or explaining WHY**

**They are going to Do - - What they want to Do  
In Direct Contradiction to God's Word**

***That is NOT being THUNDER-STRUCK  
by the Authority of The Word of God***

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**OR - Have you ever READ a scripture to a Christian,  
& had them SAY**

***Yeah, I know that's what The Word of God says,  
but here's what I THINK . . .***

***That is NOT being THUNDER-STRUCK  
by the Authority of The Word of God***

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**Listen to me pls**

**I know** we live in a

***“everyone get’s to do whatever they want” - World***

**BUT – My question to you today is**

**Should we acknowledge the REAL AUTHORITY  
of Jesus Christ (& The Word of God) – over our lives?**

Should we **Recognize The Word of God**  
as the **FINAL AUTHORITY** in our lives

**NOT just** when we **AGREE with it**

**BUT especially** when we **DON’T AGREE with it?**

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**Just Two More** Questions here -

& **then** I’ll - **Let You Up For Air**

**#1)** As **Christ-Followers** – Should we be **THUNDER-STRUCK**  
By the **REAL AUTHORITY of God’s Word?**

**#2)** What would **CHANGE** – **Today**, in our lives

**If we were** Truly **THUNDER-STRUCK**  
by the **REAL AUTHORITY of God’s Word?**

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Listen guys – This text – is about to go to

The Authority of Jesus – over the Demonic World

Then – (next week) we'll see

The Authority of Jesus – over Sickness

But – DON'T YOU THINK – The Authority of Jesus  
over our lives – Comes BEFORE - those things

What I mean is . . .

Can we really IGNORE the Authority of Jesus  
Over Our Lives

& then expect him

to EXERCISE his Authority – on our behalf  
over the Battles & Struggles of Our Lives?

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Ok – Moving on to the REAL AUTHORITY of Jesus  
OVER the Entire Demonic Realm

So - Jesus is there – teaching in the Synagogue  
& blowing people's minds with his Authority

& Mark 1:23 says (NLT) → → →

## **Mark 1:23 (NLT)**

***23 Suddenly, a man in the synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out,***

**So First** - Let me **re-phrase** that Vs  
**so that** you can **see** the **implication** to **us today**

***Suddenly, a man in the [church] who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out,***

The word "**Synagogue**" means – "**A place of Assembly**"

& the **Jews welcomed everyone** into the **Synagogue**

& so - **The Synagogues**  
were **a lot like** our **churches** today

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**So . . . I don't want** to **freak you out**

& I **don't want** you to **start "Inching Away"**  
**from** the **person** sitting **next** to you

But . . . **can I tell you please**

There **ARE times** - when **there** are **people** in this **building**  
who are **under the influence**  
of a **Power OTHER than** – The **Holy Spirit**

We **don't have** to **Freak Out** about it  
but we **DO have** to **recognize** it - & **not** be **surprised** by it

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**Have you ever heard someone say (*besides me*)  
“*How can that person ACT that way in Church*”**

The answer is “*Because they are being influenced  
by a power OTHER than the Holy Spirit*”

Fortunately – **Most Of The Time** - that “*Other Power*”  
is just **that person’s FLESH** on **FULL Display**

But **sometimes**

It is **actually** the **power** – of the **Demonic Realm**

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**Guys** – to the **Demonic Realm** - **we are the ENEMY**  
& **we** are **all gathered** in **One Place**, every week

So **WHY would** the **Demonic Army**  
**NOT** send in “**Covert Operatives**”

to **do damage to us**  
in **the place** where **we’re gathered** every week

**I know** that’s **hard** to **hear**

But **THAT IS** the **REALITY** – of **Spiritual Warfare**

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& **so . . . this man** – who **was in** the [church] -  
was **possessed** by an **evil spirit** - & he **CRIES OUT**

**& in Mark 1:24 – the demon says (NLT) → →**

## **Mark 1:24 (NLT)**

**24 “Why are you interfering with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”**

**There is A LOT to Learn – from the response  
of the Demonic Realm – When they have to FACE Jesus**

**& here – It seems the idea really is  
*Have you come to destroy us - ALREADY***

There is **NO Surprise** from this **Demon**  
that **Jesus** has **come** to **DESTROY them**

But it **kinda seems** The **Demon** is **surprised at the Timing**

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**& then – the Demon tries to UNMASK who Jesus Really IS  
By stating his True Identity – for everyone to hear**

***I know who you are—the Holy One of God!***

Isn't **it interesting** – that the **Demons** have  
a **Very Strong BELIEF** in Exactly **Who Jesus Christ IS**

**They Fully BELIEVE What He's DONE  
& They Fully BELIEVE What he is GOING to DO**

But . . . **they** are **NOT SAVED**  
& **they** are **NOT going to Heaven**

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**WHAT does that have to Do – WITH US ?**

**Well - James 2:19 says (NLT)**

***19 You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.***

So – If **WE BELIEVE** - & the **DEMONS BELIEVE**

**WHAT SEPARATES Our belief**  
**from the Belief of the Demons?**

***& - Here it is***

**We put** our **Full Faith & Trust** – **IN JESUS**  
We **entrust our Lives** – by **Faith** - **to Him**

We **Trust Him**  
**Not only** as our **SAVIOR** – But **also** as our **LORD**

***& James goes on to say***

That us **Putting** Our **Faith**  
in the **REAL AUTHORITY** of **Jesus Christ** in our lives

**CHANGES - Who we ARE**  
& it **CHANGES - HOW we LIVE**

The **Demons BELIEVE**  
That **Jesus - IS** who he **says He IS**

**But** their **Only Response** – **is to Tremble in Terror**

Jesus faced the Demonic realm Many, Many Times

& every single time - Jesus showed his ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY  
& his ABSOLUTE VICTORY over the Demonic realm

& that Absolute Authority & Victory of Jesus Christ  
OVER the Demonic Realm

is Just as Real TODAY  
AS it was that day - in the Synagogue in Capernaum

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& so – with REAL AUTHORITY

We read in Mark 1:25 (NLT)

*25 But Jesus reprimanded him (the demon). “Be quiet!  
(LIT it’s - Be Muzzled) Come out of the man,” he ordered.*

I love that - - - Jesus reprimanded him

*Shut your Trap, & Come out of that Man*

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& then - Mark 1:26 says (NLT)

*26 At that, the evil spirit screamed, threw the man into a  
convulsion, and then came out of him.*

& certainly – that Man

was FREED from that Demonic Hold – In THAT Instant

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& **AGAIN** - the **audience** in the **Synagogue**  
Is **ROCKED** by the **Authority of Jesus**

**Mark 1:27 (NLT)**

***27 Amazement gripped the audience, and they began to discuss what had happened. “What sort of new teaching is this?” they asked excitedly. “It has such authority! Even evil spirits obey his orders!”***

& **This** - is **actually** what **begins the FRENZY**  
of the **people chasing after** Jesus  
**Mostly for all the wrong reasons**

They were **Amazed** - they were **Excited**

& they **started** telling **people**  
**about** this new **Unorthodox Teacher**

who had **REAL AUTHORITY** – **even over** the **demonic realm**

**& so - Mark 1:28 says (NLT)**

***28 The news about Jesus spread quickly throughout the entire region of Galilee.***

& - **it's ON Now**

**Jesus comes on the scene – with REAL AUTHORITY**

In **His Teaching**

Over the **Demonic Realm**

& (we'll see Next Week) – **Over SICKNESS**

& it brings people out in DROVES  
Tho often - not for the right reasons

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& guys - this definitely isn't ALL  
of the REAL AUTHORITY Jesus has

### THE BIBLE SAYS;

Jesus Taught with Authority  
& He has Authority over Demonic Spirits (we saw those here)

### But – the Bible also says

Jesus has Authority over Sickness & Disease

He has Authority over Death & the Grave

He has Authority to Judge

He has Authority to Forgive Sins

& He has Authority to Grant Eternal Life

### AND

Jesus has Authority over the coming Kingdom of God

And - He has ALL Authority in Heaven and on Earth

Just to name a FEW things

That Jesus has FULL Authority over

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& So – What DOES all that Mean – to You

That Jesus Christ has this REAL & FULL AUTHORITY?

If you have **NOT YET** given your **Life** to **Jesus Christ**

This **means** that **Jesus** has the **Authority**  
to **FORGIVE** your sins - and **Grant** you **ETERNAL LIFE**

If you **HAVE Given** your life to **Jesus Christ** today

It **means** you have to **WRESTLE**

With **WHERE** the **REAL AUTHORITY** of Jesus  
**RANKS in your life**

**Because** – (Listen to me pls)

**Jesus** never offers - to be **LORD - of JUST**  
the ***“heaven after you die”*** **part** of your **life**

**With Salvation** – comes **the CALL** - to **FOLLOW Jesus**

**& if we WILL Follow Him**

He will give us – the **Greatest ABUNDANT Life** - **Now**  
& the **Greatest ETERNAL Life** – **in Heaven**

**BUT** - Following Jesus - **MEANS**

**We** put our **Full Faith & Trust**

In His - **REAL AUTHORITY** - **over our Lives**

**Let's Pray**

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