

THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS

(Luke 4:31-44)

Different people express authority in different ways. An army general give orders, a teacher gives grades, a traffic cop blows his whistle and gives out tickets, and an IRS agent audits and assesses penalties. Etc. "These are some of the ways that people exercise their God-given authority." (Ryken)

How did Jesus express His authority? He merely spoke the word and it was done. What power He possessed. He not only had the authority to do whatever He desired, but He also had the power to bring it about.

Dr. Luke writing his Gospel of certainty, desired his readers to know of the authority and power that Jesus possessed even at the very beginning of His public ministry.

THREE DIFFERENT KINDS OF AUTHORITY EXPRESSED BY JESUS REVEALING TO US THE POWER OF HIS SPOKEN WORD.

For His words are not the mere words of man, but the very Word of God.

I. **Jesus Taught The Word With Authority. (vv. 31-32)**

He was the living Word and taught the written Word as God, which He was!

A. After leaving Nazareth, Jesus went to Capernaum and again visited the synagogue for public worship on the Sabbath. While there, He taught the people the meaning of the Scriptures and doing so He preached the Gospel to them. This was His purpose. (4:43)

Capernaum was a beautiful fishing village on the Sea of Galilee. It would become Jesus' adopted home and "base of ministry operation." This is where Peter lived and worked.

The people's reaction to Him was to be utterly "amazed." They had never heard anyone teach like this. They were astonished.

B. Jesus taught the people with a resident authority. We see this in other places:

1. Jesus tells in the Sermon on the Mount, "you have heard that it was said, BUT I say to you..." Jesus spoke with His own authority. He was God, so what He said was the very Word of God, in all its mighty authority.
2. The common method of teaching in that day was for the teacher to quote all the rabbis' opinions on a passage. It was delegated authority...and quit boring to listen to.
3. How refreshing it must have been to hear the Scriptures taught in this way. Jesus is the greatest teacher of all by far! Someday, He too will teach us. You will not want to skip His lectures. What authority. What a God!!!!

II. **Jesus Cast Out Demons By Speaking A Word. What Authority! (vv. 33-37,41)**

This is the first miracle by Jesus mentioned by Luke.

