

Jesus Speaks with Authority

Promise: Jesus has authority over sin, death, and the devil

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Ps 71:1-6; 1 Cor 12:31b—13:13; [Luke 4:31-44](#)
(4th Sunday after the Epiphany, 1/30/22)

But he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose." – v. 43

Lead In – Authority and power are related. When one has, or is given, authority he can speak commands that effect the behavior of others. This is true whether the one with authority is powerful or not in himself. On the other hand, one can be personally very powerful, but without authority he does not have sway simply by speaking a command. His persuasion is by force. Jesus is all powerful, and he also has been given all authority. And we see this demonstrated in our Gospel Lesson...

I. The Power Unleashed In Public

- A. Power overcoming demons and illnesses...
- B. If it had been a sword fight, or a wrestling match...
- C. But in fact, it is an uttered command!

II. Why Doesn't Jesus Stay and Take Care of Business?

- A. Demons and illnesses are no match for him...
- B. Jesus was resolute with why he did not stay...
- C. The forgiveness of sins was the greater gift...

III. Before We Dismiss Exorcisms and Healings

- A. What does it mean in 1 John 3:8?
- B. What is meant in Rev. 21:4 of no more pain?
- C. It is important to understand the ultimate healing...

Parting Shot – Sickness and death is overcome but not abolished in this age. Those who receive dramatic healings, even the handful that have been raised (or resuscitated) from the dead, have still suffered death in their generation. The two exceptions I can think of include Enoch and Elijah. Our hope is not that we won't be touched by illness and death, but that being joined in baptism to Jesus' death, we will also share in his resurrected life even as we will share in a resurrection of the body like his. Meanwhile, we can be ever so thankful for the occasional displays of power, and the way he exercises it, that he has the authority that makes his word effective – his words of forgiveness and promise of eternal life.

Lk 4:35 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!"

Lk 4:39 And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

Mt 8:9 "For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

Mk 1:14-15 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Luke 4:31-44 ESV

Exorcising, Healing, Preaching

³¹ And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, ³² and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. ³³ And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴ "Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." ³⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. ³⁶ And they were all amazed and said to one another, "What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!" ³⁷ And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

³⁸ And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. ³⁹ And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

⁴⁰ Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹ And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

⁴² And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, ⁴³ but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose." ⁴⁴ And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Mt 9:6 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—"Rise, pick up your bed and go home."

1Jn 3:8 The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

Re 21:4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

Jn 16:33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

Jn 11:25-26 "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."

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