



Kingdom Authority

Lesson

Mark 1:21-27 ~NASB95~

21 They went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and *began* to teach.

22 They were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them **as *one having authority***, and not as the scribes.

23 Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,

24 saying, “What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”

25 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, “**Be quiet, and come out of him!**”

26 Throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him.

27 They were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, “What is this? **A new teaching with authority!** He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.”

If I were to ask the question, “What is authority?” I know of no greater and simple definition than, “Authority is the ability to command with a successful outcome.” In this story of Jesus there was recognition of authority not because of what was said but because of what was done. When one can demonstrate the power to command then we can say they have authority.

A debate broke out over this because it was not just a demonstration of authority, but there was a teaching that accompanied it. It was not just any teaching but a “new” teaching. In fact, according to verse 22, He was teaching them as one “having authority.” But note the prologue of that sentence, “...and not as the scribes.” The scribes were a group who of all the people of Israel should have had a handle on the knowledge they possessed. But yet there was a difference in this Son of God. How could He teach with such commanding authority? Then, how could He demonstrate with such ease this authority that can even make demons subject to Him?



Jesus answers these questions at the very beginning of His ministry. When He had come to the Jordan to be baptized by John, it was a coronation from disciple to minister. His training for thirty years now completed by the Father and the beauty of the Father's voice of approval was suffixed by the anointing of the Holy Spirit and a subsequent drive into the wilderness. This testing culminated in the return of the Minister Jesus to His home town of Nazareth. This would mark the beginning—the beginning of teaching others, of healing others, and of demonstrations of authority and power.

Jesus stood up and began to read out of Isaiah 61. The very first statement would reveal how He could teach and command such authority. His words must have shocked those in attendance for when He ended His reading He sat down and declared, "Today, these words are fulfilled in your hearing." What a small insignificant word "today" is. Yet, coming from the mouth of the Creator, that moment, that day, would become so significant that it would change the whole world. What were those words that were so powerfully verbalized that "day?" "The Lord has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor."

Simple enough of a statement, yet the revelation that He was anointed to do these things intrigues us. What does this mean that He was anointed? We can look back at Aaron and the anointing he received. We can look back at David and the anointing that he received. This Jesus, however, is saying and doing things that neither Aaron nor David could do.

Anointing seems to take two. There must be an anointer and an anointed. In the case of Jesus at the Jordan River, He was the Anointed. Who then anointed Him? Who set Him into this position of authority? Jesus has already spoken to us. He said the "Spirit" anointed Him.

This reveals that the very existence of authority demands the existence of position. So anointing is an inauguration into a position of authority. This agrees with what we know of the anointing of Aaron and David. Aaron was anointed into the position of high priest. David was anointed into the position of king. This Jesus, however, was anointed into both the position of High Priest and King. What would authority look like if one was anointed but did not have knowledge of position?

A quality of position and authority is that it demands cognizance which is a lack of ignorance. Ignorance is the condition of being uneducated, unaware, or uninformed. What would Jesus' authority look like if He did not understand the position it placed Him in? I



belabor this point precisely because Christians claim anointing, but they demonstrate no evidence of position. All Christians have a position but not all Christians are informed of their position, and because they are uninformed of the position, they lack the understanding to demonstrate their authority.

We either have positional cognizance which is the knowledge or awareness of one's position, or we have positional ignorance which is having position but not being aware of that position. If we have positional cognizance or awareness we have **“positional authority.”**

Positional authority is a state of authority based upon the anointing of the Spirit to command a presence of light in the kingdom of darkness. This is why the people debated these things among themselves when Jesus taught as one having authority, and then demonstrated that authority over the kingdom of darkness by driving out a demon. Lest we think that we need nothing but anointing, let me remind you that anointing for Jesus came only after He had finished His discipleship training. This begs the question, “Are we not anointed the moment we get saved?” To that, I would answer, “Yes.” However, it is a different type of anointing.

The moment we get saved the Spirit of God makes His abode with us. What is the demonstration of this truth? It is in the demonstration of the gifts of the Spirit. There are seventeen gifts mentioned that would coincide with the term “gifts of the Spirit.” They are also called “charismatic gifts.” The term is derived from the Greek word for “gift.” It is “charisma.” This is a word made up of “charis” and “ma.” “Charis” is the Greek word for “grace” or “favor.” It shows us that these supernatural abilities are actually a grace given to the Christian to demonstrate their authority over the kingdom of darkness.

This is interesting because a person can become a believer and in the same moment cast out a demon. This is an immediate authority upon conversion to Christianity. I like to call this “Charisma Anointing.” This anointing has no need of training or discipleship but a willingness to be used of the Holy Spirit. However, we also see an anointing that is given at the point one transitions from disciple to minister. I like to call this “positional anointing.” This is not to take away from the work of Christ in that we are called a royal priesthood. This is the position you have as a believer in Jesus. This is what gives you the right to plunder the kingdom of darkness as a believer.



Luke 22:52-53 ~NASB95~

52 Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders who had come against Him, “Have you come out with swords and clubs as you would against a robber?

53 “While I was with you daily in the temple, you did not lay hands on Me; **but this hour and the power of darkness are yours.**”

Here we see that the leadership of the people of God was actually operating in and by the power of darkness. The Greek literally reads, *“This is of you, the hour and the authority of the dark.”* That word power is authority. Note the stark message here. The chief priests, officers of the temple, and the elders were given that hour to function in the authority of darkness! They were engaging in agreement with the powers of darkness as those who stood positionally as leaders in the kingdom of light.

This should stand as a warning to us as well. We are called to position in the kingdom of light, yet when we come into agreement with the devil, we find that we are using our position in the kingdom of light to actually advance the kingdom of darkness. We see this often in the division of churches as well as in the destruction of relationships. If we are going to be proper stewards of the kingdom of light, we need to be careful what we come into agreement with. We certainly do not want to be found fighting against God.

Colossians 1:13 ~NASB95~

13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

Transference to position is necessary for you to receive authority. To do that you must have been transferred because you could not transfer yourself to the kingdom of God. God honors your faith by making you a citizen of the kingdom of light. Jesus sits as King over this kingdom so it really amazes me that so many Christians allow themselves to be used as pawn in the kingdom of darkness.

Acts 26:16-18 ~NASB95~

16 ‘But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you;



17 rescuing you from the *Jewish* people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you,

18 to **open their eyes** so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

Notice the problem was blindness! Not physical blindness but spiritual blindness. That means that every citizen of the kingdom of God has the ability to cure spiritual blindness! Our calling and appointment as ministers is for the ultimate purpose of populating the kingdom of Jesus with those who are blind and stuck in the kingdom of Satan. They have an inheritance if they would meet the tenant of the contract that is necessary to become a citizen of a new kingdom.

2 Corinthians 4:4 ~NASB95~

4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

If it is spiritual blindness that keeps one from the kingdom of God then we find that Satan understands the authority of the believer if he is actively deceiving so that they would not have position and thus have authority.

Acts 8:18-19 ~NASB95~

18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money,

19 saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

Simon the sorcerer understood authority and could see that the apostles walked with authority because he tried to purchase it. That means that the kingdom of God, or kingdom of light is revealed in those that have been transferred to it by the visible demonstration of authority.

If there are no miraculous (i.e. salvation, miracles, healing, raising the dead, speaking the Word of God with results, etc.) events at the hands of believers, then there is no proof of transference to the kingdom of God. This is why Jesus demonstrated His authority after



teaching. Anyone can say anything, but when you demonstrate authority over another kingdom, then we all know you have real authority.

Why do you think Jesus said to say at the healing of the sick that *“the kingdom of God has come near you.”* That means that all believers are to be miracle workers! It is in the demonstrative evidence that people can see authority. Authority can only be revealed when it is demonstrated over another kingdom, like the kingdom of darkness.

This is done by bringing light to the blind, casting out demons, raising the dead, healing the sick, speaking the Word of God in power. These are all works of the kingdom of darkness, and by you having dominion over them you demonstrate the authority you possess in the kingdom of God.

Matthew 10:1 ~NASB95~

1 Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

This was done to Jesus’ disciples. He had the power to give His authority to others. This is important to grasp. When Moses was coming to the end of his life he cried out to God to raise up a set man like himself. This was not God’s preferred form of government so He told Moses to call Joshua to himself and give him some of his authority. This reveals the ability to give one’s authority to another. Jesus demonstrated that with His disciples. At the end of the disciples’ training they were given a commission. They were told to go into all the world and make disciples. These were not just converts to Christianity but disciples of Christ. Then Jesus said to teach them all that He had taught the disciples. Are we to think that they did not pass their authority to their disciples?

This means you have authority to cast out unclean spirits, to heal every kind of disease, to heal every kind of sickness! If Jesus did this as a training exercise for His disciples, does that not mean that He expects disciples today to enter into this same authority?

Matthew 28:18-20 ~NASB95~

18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.



- 19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Next we need to see what or who we have authority over. First there is the enemy. Every Christian is a potential warrior in the kingdom of light. You have what you need; you just need to own what you have. You own it by exercising it. Jesus gave His authority to us.

Luke 10:18-20 ~NASB95~

- 18 And He said to them, “I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.
19 “Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you.
20 “Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”

The Power to Enforce

Luke 24:49 ~NASB95~

- 49 “And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

You probably already know that the Greek word for power is “dunamis.” You must understand that no authority will be recognized without the power to enforce it. You can have all of the position and authority you want, but if you do not have the power to enforce that authority you cannot demonstrate authority.

A police officer without a weapon does not possess the power to exercise his authority. He may have a uniform. He may have a certificate of recognition of his authority. He may even have the government backing him up. All of this is completely ineffective without the power to enforce the authority possessed. Again, this is why Jesus taught; then He backed it up with power. A Christian without Holy Ghost dunamis power is without the power to exercise their authority.



Those that deny the power of the Holy Ghost to do exploits are impotent to exercise authority and they become inoculated from bringing the kingdom of God to the kingdoms of darkness! Notice that Jesus told the disciples to wait! Don't you go trying to exercise authority until you have that Holy Ghost side arm to enforce the laws of God's Kingdom!

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 ~NASB95~

4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

1 Thessalonians 1:5 ~NASB95~

5 for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

The word was accompanied with power by the Holy Ghost! What would it be like to attack the kingdom of darkness without the power of the Holy Spirit? The story of the sons of Sceva in the book of Acts gives us an inside view of what it would be like. This is found in the nineteenth chapter. There were seven sons of Sceva who were exorcists. When they witnessed how easy it was for Paul to cast out demons in the name of Jesus, the word says that they "attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.""

Notice that they were trying to name over those who had evil spirit the name of Jesus. What does this mean? It means that they were trying to use the authority of the name of Jesus without the power of the name of Jesus. The power of the name of Jesus is the Holy Spirit. Note that the outcome for these seven men was not positive. The man who was possessed overpowered them and they ran from the house wounded and naked. This is what it looks like when you attempt to enforce authority without power.

Luke 10:8-12 ~NASB95~

8 "Whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat what is set before you;
9 and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'



10 “But whatever city you enter and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say,

11 ‘Even the dust of your city which clings to our feet we wipe off *in protest* against you; yet be sure of this, that the kingdom of God has come near.’

12 “I say to you, it will be more tolerable in that day for Sodom than for that city.

You carry the power to enforce the kingdom of God against the kingdom of darkness because you have position, and because you have position you have authority, and because you have authority, YOU HAVE POWER!

One of the marks of authority is the freedom to exercise the power of your position! If you are limited in your ability to exercise power, then your authority is also limited. Many Christians think in terms of always functioning in accordance with God’s will. Because of this they are minded more to not demonstrate than to demonstrate. If you are given authority then you have the will of the one who gave it to use that authority as you see fit.

If you are a Christian, you have position. If you have position, you have authority. If you have authority, you have the power to enforce it. The question has never been “Will God ever use me?” The question is “Will you be used of God?” The onus is upon us. We are given those things we need in order to demonstrate God’s kingdom and authority over the kingdom of darkness. Now, will you do it?