



EMPOWERED: AUTHORITY IN HIS WORD

releasing captives from Satan's control

February 11, 2024

Luke 4:31-37

Luke 3-4: Luke presented Jesus to Theophilus as the **perfect and sinless Savior**. Jesus was greater than **Adam** in the Garden, **Israel** in the wilderness, and He was **the Fulfillment** of all God's saving promises. He returned to Galilee **preaching and proving** His authority to save His people from the **bondages of sin**, the **blindness of dead religion**, and from the **oppression of the devil**.

Luke 4:31-37: As the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy (4:21), Jesus demonstrated His **authority to proclaim** – and deliver—**salvation**. By His word, Jesus released a man from the **bondage** of an **unclean spirit** revealing His authority over **Satan's babbling demons** and His power to destroy the **works of Satan**. (1 John 3:8)

Coram Deo: HFC must **proclaim** Christ as the **Lord** who saves sinners from the bondage of sin and death. Demonic forces cannot prevail against Christ's sovereign authority. **HFC must** hold fast to the "Word of Christ" as we extend His invitation for liberation. (e.g. Jn 8:36)

Question: How does our own sin nature keep us in bondage to the devil's schemes? To **where** does Christ **call us out** of such a **wilderness**?

CONTRASTING ENCOUNTERS WITH CHRIST'S AUTHORITY

I. AUTHORITY: A TALE OF TWO CITIES. (Nazareth / Capernaum)

Luke 4:31-37 *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.*

Coram Deo: Jesus' authority is revealed to us in His **Incarnational teaching**. Lots of people **marvel** at Jesus' power and want to see **miracles** (Capernaum), but fewer people recognize His **authority and obey** his **teaching**. Has God opened your heart and made you willing to follow Christ? **Are you a follower of Christ** or just a **fan** of Christ?

II. AUTHORITY: A TALE OF TWO KINGDOMS. (light and darkness)

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.*

Coram Deo: Millions of people go to church every Sunday who are not **followers of Christ**. Their minds are controlled by the **devil's occupation of their own desires**. What can break this kind of bondage? What kind of preaching should they be hearing? (2 Cor 4:4-5) (not ourselves... but **Christ as Lord**.)

The **devil manipulates worldly churches** into preaching a gospel that promises everything he tempted Adam in the Garden, Israel in the Wilderness, and Christ with in the Wilderness. How do you identify and **resist** such preaching? (Four examples)

1. They preach a gospel that targets your **human desires**. (subjective)
2. They use **earthly gain** as proof of God's favor.
3. They do not preach **Christ as Lord** and **repentance from sin**.
4. They **twist the Scriptures** to fit their human-centered agenda.

III. AUTHORITY: A TALE OF TWO WORDS. (human / heavenly)

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.*

Coram Deo: The salvation that Jesus proclaims is **miraculous**. His word opens prison doors and **sets captives free** from the **domain of Satan**. **HFC must** give a clear "report" of such things to every person that surrounds our lives. E.g. "Jesus set me free."

Implications:

1. Satan was proven to be "bound" by the **authority** and word of Jesus.
2. We must teach/preach the Word without diluting it with popular opinion. There is no power in **man-centered gospel**.
3. Christ still speaks every time His words are **proclaimed**. Demons still shudder, and **the devil is still bound** by Christ's person and truth.
4. The demons **believed** that Jesus was the Holy One of God. The devil knew that Jesus was the Messiah who had come to deliver His people from the slavery of the Fall. (James 2:19) Were they **redeemed**?
5. There are millions of people who think that merely **knowing about** Jesus will save them. Millions of people **marvel** at Jesus and want miracles so badly that they devote themselves to religions, cults, and charismatic leaders. What kind of belief saves you?
6. But true **salvation from God** only comes to those who believe and follow Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life. (John 14:6) Be free.