

**Christ Community Covenant Church**  
**The Authority and Power of Christ - Mark 1:22-42**  
**Pastor Dave Scherrer - November 2, 2014**

**Mark 1:22-45**

And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. <sup>22</sup> And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup> And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, <sup>24</sup> "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." <sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" <sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup> And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." <sup>28</sup> And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

<sup>29</sup> And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup> Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. <sup>31</sup> And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup> That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. <sup>33</sup> And the whole city was gathered together at the door. <sup>34</sup> And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup> And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup> And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, <sup>37</sup> and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." <sup>38</sup> And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." <sup>39</sup> And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

<sup>40</sup> And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean."

<sup>41</sup> Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "I will; be clean." <sup>42</sup> And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.

**Who gave you the Exousia?**

Who gave you authority here? Jesus in this short account demonstrated his authority:

Authority over Truth,  
Authority over the Spirit-world,  
Authority over the Natural-world,  
Authority over Disease,  
Authority over Death and Sin,  
Authority over All Things

Jesus Christ, by his obedience to the Father even to death on the cross has been exalted and given all authority. At His word all things obey.

Exousia is an interesting word. There are two Greek words for this kind of clout in the New Testament that is being exercised by Christ here in this passage. One is *exousia* and the other is *dunamis*. Exousia (authority) is different (superior) than mere power (dunamis).

Dunamis is the kind of power like the 8<sup>th</sup> grade playground bully that is pushing around second graders. This person has dunamis but has no right or privilege to do what they are doing. When the principal comes who is bigger and stronger and has authority, now we are talking about a person who has exousia and dunamis.

This same kind of clout is the mom who says, "Because I say so." She is exercising her exousia. Her authority. As time goes by, the mom will have less outright power over her 17 year old son – less dunamis – but her exousia – her authority – will still be in place.

In our passage we see Jesus acting with *exousia* and it amazes the people. This *Positional Power* has both the authority and the power to cause all things to act in accordance to His will. This Positional Power causes both angels and demons to move. The exousia of Christ operates often by the Spoken Word as we see here in this passage a couple of times. However, when exousia is strong it can operate through the presence of a person to bring a Governing Influence over the atmosphere. Without a spoken word things obey.

When Christ encounters enemy territory, he takes dominion. Remember in the garden on the night he was betrayed in John 18 we read; *"Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, 'Whom are you seeking?' They answered Him, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus said to them, 'I am He.' And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. Now when He said to them, 'I am He,' they drew back and fell to the ground.* This is the authority of Christ saving the lives of the disciples at that moment. Christ's *exousia* quenches the enemy's *dunamis*

The people recognized immediately that Jesus was different. He spoke differently, carried Himself and acted with a kind of authority they had never seen before. Remember what they saw and how they responded?

***"Who is this that even the wind and the sea obey him?"  
When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out."***

Over and over the people were astonished:

***Matthew 13:54***

He came to His hometown and began teaching them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?"

***Mark 6:2***

When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things, and what is this wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands?"

***Mark 1:27***

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."

***Matthew 8:23-27***

<sup>23</sup> And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. <sup>24</sup> And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. <sup>25</sup> And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." <sup>26</sup> And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. <sup>27</sup> And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

Where did Jesus get His authority? Did he learn it, or get a degree in some studies, or was he elected to the position? Was it his family name or inherited wealth? No these are shadowy imitations of passing authority on earth. Jesus received His authority from the Heavenly Father:

***John 10:17-18***

"The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

John Piper in a sermon titled the Beauty of Holiness said:

God is authoritative. "I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted." There has never been a vision of God plowing a field, cutting his grass, shining shoes, filling out reports or loading a truck. Heaven is not coming apart at the seams for lack of attention. He is sitting in complete composure and on a throne. God is never at wits end with his heavenly realm. The throne signifies his right to rule the world. You don't give God authority in your life, he has it. Totally. You can either pretend he doesn't and perish or own it with joy. He has in the universe absolute authority.

This Jesus is amazing in his absolute authority and now we are charged with being amazing too!

***This Jesus was amazing!  
Now we are charged with being amazing***

Listen to these verses that remind us of our position in Christ and the authority that has been conferred onto us as disciples and co-heirs in Christ:

***John 14:12***

<sup>12</sup> "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

***John 1:12***

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the power to become sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.

***Matt 28:18***

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

***2 Tim 1:7***

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Do you feel the *Exousia*? Do you live day by day and moment by moment with this positional power and the authority of God? I don't. Sometimes I walk more confidently in Christ than other times. But one thing I'm sure of - I want this power. For the sake of Christ and His priorities in the world, I want this authority. So what is holding me back I wonder?

***I want this authority. What is holding me back?***

One of three options:

1. Jesus was lying
2. Something is stopping me from accessing the power

Paul Simon song: Why am I so soft in the middle now?

We lack authority and power because we are not disciplined in things of the spirit. For a boxer to press his authority in the ring, he must be disciplined out of the ring. Strengthening regimens, healthy diets, endurance running, skill practice. Then when it is needed, the authority is there.

**Proverbs 25:28**

A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.

Paul said *I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified (1 Cor. 9:27).*

For us to enjoy our exousia it requires a solid knowledge of the Word and grounding in the truth. It requires a boldness in our position with the Risen and Reigning Christ – as daughters and sons of God in Christ. It requires a oneness with the Father and a hard following after Christ. Finally there is the possibility that we have been participating in the Spirit unawares.

**3. I have been participating with authority in the Spirit and not recognizing it****John 15:16**

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide.

All of us who are Christians are making fruit, some little some lots, but all of us have been making an eternal difference that will rumble through the halls of heaven for ever and ever and ever! All of us.

***The smallest act of selfless obedience in the name of the Father with the power of the Holy Spirit will magnify eternity forever in Christ.***

And that brings us to the authority of the Lord's Table.

**The authority and power of the Lord's Table**

1. Communion reminds us of the redemptive, substitutionary power and work of Christ,
2. Communion is a profession on our part that we have become partakers of Christ and draw our life from His death and resurrection. It reminds us of the covenant that was made with the blood of Jesus.

**John 6:53-56**

Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

We proclaim the Lord's death for us when we partake in The Table. 1 Corinthians 11:26 says; **"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."**

But there is the power of life in this cup as well. Life and wonder working power in the blood of the Lamb. Life is in the blood for the atonement for sins.

**Leviticus 17:11**

'For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'

3. Communion reminds us of the cleansing power of the blood of Christ.

1 John 1:7 reminds us "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread,<sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."<sup>25</sup> In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."<sup>26</sup> For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

***Andrew Murray, 1897***

Eternal God, I have received the good tidings that there is room also for me at the table of Thy Son. With grateful thanks I receive thy invitation, God of all grace. I hunger for Thy bread, O Lord. My soul thirsts for God. For the living God my flesh and my heart cry out. When shall I enter and appear before the face of God?

Lord, graciously bestow upon me a blessing. Let the sight of my sinfulness humble me deeply and take away from me all hope in myself. Let the sight of Thy grace again encourage me and fill me with confidence and gladness. Do Thou Thyself stir up within me a mighty desire for the Bridegroom, for the precious Jesus, without whom there could be no feast. And may it be manifest in me that I am full of joy that I have an invitation to eat bread in the house of my God with his only-begotten and well-beloved Son. Lord, grant this for Jesus' sake.