

THE SERVANT KING'S AUTHORITY

(Mark 1:12-13;21-28)

Every person has an authority in their life. For those of us who believe in Jesus Christ, our source of authority is revelation: we live the way we live because God says so. That revelation is given to us in the form of a written Word and a Living Word. That authority is extended to us; we can experience the blessings of Jesus' authority.

I. WE CAN EXPERIENCE JESUS' AUTHORITY IN RESISTING TEMPTATION (vv. 12-13)

1. If we let our self-centeredness have what it wants, it eventually destroys us.
 - Jesus' authority helps us resist the temptation of the flesh that Satan throws at us.
2. At His baptism, Jesus was authorized for the ministry He would bring to humanity.
 - Here's a principle to remember: After every victory comes temptation.
 - The Bible does not say that you won't be put in a situation where you are tempted but it does say God gives you a way out.
3. The temptations: (Mark does not list them but Matthew 4 & Luke 4 do.)
 - Turn stones into bread: Provide for your own needs apart from the will of the Father.
 - Jump from the temple: Display power apart from God's will.
 - Bow down to me: Take the shortcut to peace and power.
4. The answer to dealing with temptation is to be in right relationship to Jesus.
 - Because of Jesus, the Holy Spirit gives you the ability to use the Word of God to show you the way out.

II. WE CAN EXPERIENCE JESUS' AUTHORITY IN HIS TEACHING (vv. 21-22)

1. Jesus began teaching on the Sabbath at the local Synagogue.
 - Synagogues contained an assembly hall where Scripture was read and then discussed, much like we do sermon-based bible studies.
 - Scribes usually taught the sermons, but their authority rested on the tradition of men.
2. When Jesus taught, people were stirred.
 - Jesus taught with direct authority because it was the Word of God, reflected in His life.
3. The Word of God must have authority over our lives.
 - Instead of just possessing the message, we need to let the message possess us.
 - When the Word of God has authority over our lives, it gives us direction.

III. WE CAN EXPERIENCE JESUS' AUTHORITY IN HIS FREEDOM (vv. 23-28)

1. Satan and his forces know who the Lord is, even before man does.
2. Jesus was preaching the Word of God when one in the crowd spoke out against Him.
 - He was under the command of evil and denounced Christ.
3. Jesus said "Be quiet!" and "Come out of him!" Jesus released him from the chains.
 - It doesn't matter how hard a heart; God can still break it and set us free.

Jesus has the authority to forgive sins, to resist the devil's temptations in your life, to give instruction on how to live life. Is your life permeated with the authority of Jesus Christ?