

2.1.A(6).The Son of Man: Authority to Free.

Mark 1:21-28; 2:10

22 And they were astonished at his teaching, for he **taught** them as one who had **authority**, and not as the scribes. 23 And immediately there was in **their synagogue** a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out... (Mark 1:22-23)

¹⁰ But that you may know that **the Son of Man** has **authority** on earth to **forgive sins**”—he said to the paralytic— (2:10)

Background:

- **The Son of Man:** (Psalm 8:4-6).

- **Authority to forgive sins:** (Mark 2:10)

Focus:

1. Changing Life: Teaching with Authority. 1:21-22
2. Cleansing Spirit: Holy Word. 1:23-26
3. Commanding Authority: Lord's Teaching. 1:27-38

Consider:

As a disciple, one of the first things you will encounter as you begin to follow Jesus Mashiach as your Lord is his *teaching*, the words of his you read in this Gospel and the other Gospels. But, this “teaching” will be different from any other *teaching* you have experienced, because Jesus Mashiach is not a merely human teacher. He is the Son come from God, so he teaches with

“authority” and “power.” That is why his first audiences were “astonished” (1:22) at his teaching.

But, the goal of Jesus Mashiach for you as his disciple is not merely to “astonish” you—he cares little if he impresses people or not. Rather, the Words Jesus gives you are the *means of his power* to change your life. For, when you *hear His Words* and act on them, obeying or following or heeding—He works powerfully in your life to build your *love and knowledge of him* (John 14:21); to give you eternal life and protection (John 5:24); and, to ground your life on His solid foundation (Matthew 7:24-25).

Case Study: I can personally attest to the truth of his promise. At one point in my life, I was facing the loss of everything. Having lost a university teaching job, my wife was institutionalized and under suicide watch, child services threatened to remove my children, and

there was no help in sight in this foreign land.
 But, I clung to the Lord Jesus Mashiach and His
 strong Word, and we weathered the storm,
 with everything restored and our house well-
 established on the Rock!

So, cling to the Lord's Words and Commands as
 you would cling to the Lord Jesus Himself!
 Memorize and have them for quick access, for the
 Word of God is "living and active, sharper than any
 two edged sword" (Hebrews 4:12). Grow in
 knowing the consecrating touch of the Lord's
 Word to transform your life and the life of those
 He has given you!

1.Changing Life: Teaching with Authority. 1:21-22

When you think of the Lord's Words and his
 "teaching," abandon your old understanding of
 "teaching" was has been entirely fleshly in its
 nature. That is, the people in that synagogue
 were "astonished" because Jesus taught them as

one who had “authority” (1:22), speaking to them as the Lord from God. And, at its heart, “authority” is relational in its effect. For, there are only certain people in your life who have the “place” and the “right” to speak with authority. So, a parent, a spouse, or a trusted advisor, speak with the weight of “relationship.”

In this way, the “teaching” of Jesus Mashiach is unique because, as your God-appointed Mashiach, he has come to you as your “Lord”—the Son of God who has been give “all authority” over all peoples (Matthew 28:18). So, when he speaks to you, he speaks to you as your Lord.

He speaks about your life, your obedience, your problems—not in an abstract, anonymous, or disinterested way. Instead, he speaks to you as your Lord. He speaks of your life as a life He has redeemed, one that he is working powerfully in. He speaks to you as your Savior, your friend, your

companion walking through life, your Lord, your Kinsman-Redeemer, your brother, your friend.

So, respond to the “relational power” of the Lord’s teaching. For, how you respond to the Lord’s teaching is responding to the Lord himself. That is why when you *obey the Word* of the Lord, even when your fleshly self is screaming for the opposite, to indulge in that sin or to choose lawless selfishness, but when you obey His Word and not your own flesh, you show that you actually “love” him. More than your life itself (John 14:21).

Never, never relegate Jesus Mashiach to the place of an anonymous, earthly teacher. Doing so will void His Word of its power. Then, you will come to Him to in a Lord-servant relationship, but as a mere “acquirer of knowledge” coming to Jesus as any other harmless Sage. For this reason, the Jewish nation have long *emasculated* their view of Mashiach to be a hoary and wizened

scholar amidst the swarm of scholars Israel has produced. For, such a weakling has no place to make any claims on their lives. Such a frail Mashiach is useless except to *justify* Israel's Self-serving purposes. Yet, what will Israel do on that day when it is surrounded by the world's nations, blood-hungry for its total annihilation? With its defenses depleted and its barriers broken down, it can only wait for its destruction. Will it turn to its Shneerson- like scholar-Messiah for Talmudic pronouncements as its people are trampled underfoot?

2. Cleansing Spirit: Holy Word. 1:23-26

Not only does Jesus Mashiach teach with the "relational authority" as the Lord Himself, but he teaches with an authority that rules both "heaven" and "earth."

Notice that the first impact of his teaching is that "immediately," spiritual uncleanness was revealed from its dark hiding place (1:23). Now,

we should not be surprised that this *unclean spirit* was hiding in the “synagogue” in the midst of religious activity. Fleshly religion is designed for that very purpose, to *hide* from the scathing holiness of God. Just as our first parents used *fig leaves* to cover their inadequacy, so we use religious activity—earthly doctrines, religious customs and rituals, to give us a veneer of righteousness instead of submitting to the life-changing righteousness of the Lord.

But, the “teaching” of Jesus Mashiach uncovers this *unclean spirit*, who knows that this Lord cannot abide spiritual uncleanness but seeks to “destroy” it (24), which Jesus proceeds to do by “rebuking” this *demon* and commanding it, “Come out!” (26).

Notably, we see how the power of Jesus Mashiach results in deep, *spiritual cleansing* and freedom from the grip of unclean spirits. No other earthly teaching can accomplish this deep

cleansing. But, Jesus has the authority in the spiritual realm to heal this deep uncleanness.

Even so, many suffer from hidden, deep and unseen, spiritual bondages. Unclean spirits cause defilements of heart, mind, and soul, and their damaging *power* can affect us at the unseen levels.

So, as one who belongs to the Lord and follows in his way, your first priority is read the Word to illuminate any areas of dark uncleanness, of spiritual bondage, of sin in your life. Confess these immediately, asking the Lord Jesus to “forgive and cleanse” you of this uncleanness (1 John 1:9). For, once you are freed of the *vile bondage* of spiritual uncleanness, the Lord can then use you to help those in your “net” to experience this same cleansing and freedom of the Kingdom of God!

3. Commanding Authority: Lord’s Teaching. 1:27-

The synagogue witnesses were amazed at the “new” teaching of Jesus Mashiach—new to them as *fleshly eyes* are unaccustomed to the *Spirit’s power*, but also “new” as a glimpse of the New Life of the Kingdom!

These witnesses attested to the “authority” of Jesus to “command” even the unclean spirits, and “they obey him” (1:27). We, too, should notice the immediate response of the spirit to leave at the Lord’s “command.” How telling that *enemy spirits* respond with such quick obedience, but in the realm of earth, the responses to the Lord’s command are quite varied—from ignoring, to refusing, to delay, or even reluctant compliance.

This discrepancy reveals our Lord’s great mercy, for he helps us as errant children to follow his commands with more and more immediacy, as our view of his Lordship comes into view as we continue to “walk” with Jesus and follow him.

May we be like Simon Peter who, at first, viewed Jesus with fleshly eyes, as simply a “master” (Luke 5:5). By honoring Jesus as simply a “master,” conceding that he has a measure of limited authority as either a teacher or as a role model, we can localize the areas in our lives where he may hold sway—over our religious activities or our times of need. And, if Jesus’s limited authority covers religious things, we can be the masters of all the other areas of our lives. But, when Jesus reveals himself to Simon Peter as having all and unlimited authority in heaven and earth, commanding even the *swarm of fish* to gather to Peter’s nets, Simon can only simply cry out: “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” (Luke 5:8).

When we walk with the Lord Jesus Mashiach, we know that he deserves are quick and total obedience when he commands us. But, like children learning to walk with their parents, we

learn by running off, ignoring, or doing the opposite of what was commanded. We learn from our detours that it is better to obey than to resist.

For, in our walks with the Lord, if we refuse him at any point, our growth in the Lord will be stunted and stalled until we obey what he commands us to do.

And, to walk in direct disobedience to the Lord and his commands is rebellion and walking in the darkness, out of fellowship with him. As a child lost in the scary mall, our waywardness and disobedience to the Lord corrects us to know that aligning ourselves with the Lord and His commands is truly good for us and our safety.

Question:

Further Discovery:

The Firstborn of Man: the Son of Man.

Genesis 2:4, 3:15.