

Introduction

My father wrote a book about Lost Circulation. He said it was the number one problem in drilling worldwide. The editor of World Oil at that time was Les Skinner, and he did a review of my father's new book. He gave it a thumbs-up and agreed with my father that it was the number one problem. There are different types of Lost Circulation and each type has a different cause and cure. My father wanted to help our industry gain understanding about the problem so that they could have better success in dealing with this problem.

This morning we are covering Mark 1:21-34. It is about Jesus teaching with authority. If I were to look at all the problems in the church today, and in society today, one of the problems that would stand out very clearly is authority. I cannot say that it is the number one problem, but if it is not the number one problem, it is very close to it.

Chad and I were driving home on Monday evening and he had his phone app, WAZE, open. He told me that there was a policeman at the Chevron station ahead of us. I replied, "Good, we need the police to be around. They are God's ministers for good." People don't think of police that way. I try to drive the speed limit and follow the law so I am not afraid of coming across the police when I drive. The police are an authority and their job is to maintain law and order.

In Romans 13 Paul talks about the purpose of authorities. He said, "For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil." Authorities are ministers of God to bring wrath on those who break the law and practice evil. Authorities are given by God to promote good behavior. Notice how many times the words, good and evil, are used in this passage on authority.

(Rom 13:3-4) "For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; {4} for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil."

Many people mistrust authority and that is a shame. God created authority for the good of society and for our own good. In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians he talked about authority. God had given him authority to build up the churches, not to destroy or tear them down. When God puts us in a position of authority, we need to use our authority to build up others. We need to use it to promote good behavior and restrain evil behavior. Parents are to use their authority to train up their children in the ways of the Lord, that is good behavior. They are to discipline them to teach them not to practice bad behavior.

(2 Cor 10:8) "For even if I boast somewhat further about our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be put to shame,"

(2 Cor 13:10) "For this reason I am writing these things while absent, so that when present I need not use severity, in accordance with the authority which the Lord gave me for building up and not for tearing down."

Even the disciples had a wrong understanding of authority. On more than one occasion they argued about which one of the was the greatest. At the Last Supper, after Jesus had washed their feet, there arose a dispute among them about that very thing. Jesus told them, "the kings of the

Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called 'Benefactors.' But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant." After three years with Jesus, they were still struggling with the understanding of authority. God wants authorities to be servants, and that was who Jesus was. He was a Servant Leader who did not lord over people, but served them and gave His life as a ransom for them.

(Luke 22:24-26) "And there arose also a dispute among them *as to* which one of them was regarded to be greatest. {25} And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called 'Benefactors.' {26} "But *it is* not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant."

Peter apparently got the message because in the fifth chapter of his first letter he exhorted the pastors of churches not to lord over their flocks, but to lead by example. There are many pastors as well as congregants that have struggled with authority. We need more understanding about authority. This morning, I want to give an understanding of authority so that we will be a church operating under the authority of God. We will look at Jesus' source of authority. Second, we will look at His teaching with authority. Third, we will look at His demonstration of His authority.

(1 Pet 5:2-3) "shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of* God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; {3} nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock."

Jesus Teaches With Authority (Mark 1:21-34)

1. Jesus' Source of Authority
2. Jesus' Teaching With Authority
3. Jesus' Demonstration of Authority

(Mark 1:21-34) "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." {28} Immediately the news about Him spread everywhere into all the surrounding district of Galilee. {29} And immediately after they came out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. {30} Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever; and immediately they spoke to Jesus about her. {31} And He came to her and raised her up, taking her by the hand, and the fever left her, and she waited on them. {32} When evening came, after the sun had set, they *began* bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed. {33} And the whole city had gathered at the door. {34} And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was."

1. Jesus' Source of Authority

Our passage begins by saying they went to Capernaum. Jesus moved from Nazareth to Capernaum and this became His home base during His earthly ministry. Capernaum is on the northern side of the Sea of Galilee. Andrew and Peter were from Bethsaida, which is also on the northern side of the Sea of Galilee, just a few miles east of Capernaum.

(John 1:43-44) “The next day He purposed to go into Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, “Follow Me.” {44} Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter.”

He had just picked up Andrew, Peter, James, John, and Philip, and in our text they start by going to Capernaum, where Jesus went into the synagogue and begins to teach on the Sabbath. Mark records that they were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. They were amazed at His teaching because He taught with authority. The Greek word for authority is *exousia* (Strong's G1849) which means to have authority, jurisdiction, power, right, or strength. The root word is *existi*, which means to be lawful. The term authority then carries this idea of law and order.

Exousia, G1849, from [<G1832>](#) (*exesti*) (in the sense of *ability*); *privilege*, i.e. (subject) *force, capacity, competency, freedom*, or (object) *mastery* (concrete *magistrate, superhuman, potentate, token of control*), *delegated influence* :- authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength

Exesti, G1832, third person singular presumed indicative of a compound of [<G1537>](#) (*ek*) and [<G1510>](#) (*eimi*); so also *exon*, ex-on'; neuter presumed participle of the same (with or without some form of [<G1510>](#) (*eimi*) expressed); impersonal *it is right* (through the figurative idea of *being out* in public) :- be lawful, let, × may (-est). Used 32 times, 29 times as “be lawful.”

I want to look at Jesus' authority and where He got this authority. First, the Word of God is God's word and we can speak it with authority. We need to know the word and stand firm on His word. John wrote, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1) Jesus was the Word that became flesh. He was obviously going to teach the Word of God with authority, because He was the Word in the flesh. Jesus had authority and it was apparent to everyone who heard Him teach.

(Mark 1:21-22) “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.”

Second, all authority comes from God. In Romans 13:1, Paul said there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Jesus' authority came from God. Jesus was under the Father's authority. He had been sent by the Father (John 3:16). He only did what the Father showed Him. He only did the Father's will (John 5:30).

(Rom 13:1) “Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.”

In John 19:10-11, Jesus had been brought before Pilate and charges had been made against Him. Jesus was silent and so Pilate said to Him, “You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and have authority to crucify You?” Jesus answered, “You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above.” Jesus was teaching Pilate the principle that all authority is given by God, and that God is the ultimate authority.

(John 19:10-11) “So Pilate *said to Him, "You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?" {11} Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has *the* greater sin.”

When Jesus went to the temple and cast out the money changers and said, “My house shall be called a house of prayer,” the chief priests and elders had a problem with it. They asked Jesus, who gave You this authority? Jesus responded by asking them a question. “The baptism of John was from what source, from heaven or from men?” They would not answer Jesus because they reasoned among themselves if they said that John was from heaven, then Jesus would ask them why they did not believe John. If they said that John was from men, they feared the people because the people respected John the Baptist and regarded him as a prophet. Therefore, Jesus said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.” Jesus had actually told them where He got His authority. God gave Him that authority at the time He was baptized and anointed. When a king was anointed, He was given the authority over the kingdom.

(Matt 21:23-27) “When He entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to Him while He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?" {24} Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. {25} "The baptism of John was from what *source*, from heaven or from men?" And they *began* reasoning among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Then why did you not believe him?' {26} "But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the people; for they all regard John as a prophet." {27} And answering Jesus, they said, "We do not know." He also said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

When John baptized Jesus, God had already revealed to him that the One that the Holy Spirit came down upon and remained was the Messiah. God revealed to John that Jesus was the Lamb of God who was going to take away the sins of the world. God had revealed to John that Jesus existed before him, even though John was older in the flesh by six months. At Jesus’ baptism, God affirmed Jesus as His Son in whom He was well pleased. Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit when He was baptized. The King of the Jews had been crowned and anointed and He was given all authority.

The third source of authority came during Jesus’ temptations in the wilderness. Jesus fasted for forty days. After being baptized, Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness. When He finished the fast, He returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit. Something happened to Jesus during that fast. When I did my forty-day fast, I did not fast for more authority. I wanted to see more balance in my ministry. As a teacher, I have always been more truth oriented. I wanted to have more spirit and truth in my ministry, and that was one of the things that I asked God for. But, one of the things that I gained in that fast was more authority. Something came over me in that fast and I have never been the same. I speak with authority. I teach with authority. God released more authority to me in that fast.

(Luke 4:1-14) “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness {2} for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry... {14} And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district.”

When the disciples were unable to cast out the demon from the little boy, they brought him to Jesus and He cast the demon out. When the disciples asked Him why they could not drive it out, He spoke to them about two things. He spoke to them about faith, and He concluded by saying that this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting. Jesus did not go on a fast before ministering to the boy. He had already prayed and fasted. In Jesus’ fast, He was given more power and authority. I can attest to that from the Word and from personal experience.

(Matt 17:18-21) “And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured at once. {19} Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not drive it out?" {20} And He *said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. {21} "But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

2. Jesus’ Authority in His teaching

Mark makes a comparison to Jesus’ teaching with the teachings of the scribes. He said, “for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.” There is a difference between someone teaching from head knowledge, like the scribes, and someone who is living the scriptures and teaching it with authority. In our drilling school, one of the things that separates us from most companies is the experience of our teachers. All teachers must have knowledge and they must pass instructor knowledge assessments (or tests). But most schools do not have teachers with great operational experience. When our instructors speak to young engineers, they speak with authority. It is not just head knowledge; they are speaking about operations that they have done many times. That gives them a platform to speak from. Jesus was the same way. He was living out the things that He taught them. Jesus’ life message and His teaching message were one and the same, and that is powerful.

(Mark 1:22) “They were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes.”

Paul told Titus to speak, exhort and reprove with all authority. Earlier in that verse, he told him to speak the things fitting for sound doctrine. Titus could teach with all authority, just as Jesus did, because he was teaching the Word of God. We need to teach the Word of God, and teach it accurately. When we teach the Word, we can teach with authority. To teach with authority, study and know the word (2 Tim 2:15). Second, apply it in your own life (Ps 111:10). Third, come to a conviction of the word (1 Thess 1:5, Rom 14:22).

(Titus 2:1, 2:15) “But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine... {15} These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.”

Paul wrote Timothy and told him that “all scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness.” There is authority in the scriptures because they are from God, the ultimate authority.

3. Jesus’ Demonstration of Authority

a. Jesus’ Authority over demons (Mark 1:23-27)

In verses 23-27, the people commented again about His teaching with authority. This time it was not a comparison with the scribes. This time it was because He cast out an unclean spirit. Jesus rebuked the demon, told him to be quiet, and to come out of the man. The unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him. The people were amazed at His authority over demons.

(Mark 1:23-27) “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."

John Wimber said that Jesus proclaimed the word and demonstrated the word. There was always proclamation and demonstration. Those two things characterized Jesus’ ministry. In his conferences, John would preach and then he would have a ministry time. He emulated the pattern that Jesus left of proclaiming and demonstrating.

In Acts 19:11-16, Paul was in Ephesus. He was casting out demons and healing the sick. There was a Jewish chief priest named Sceva and he had seven sons. They attempted to use the name of Jesus and cast out some evil spirits. The evil spirit answered and said, “I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?” The evil spirit leaped on them, subdued them, and overpowered them, so that they fled naked and wounded. In order to have authority over the demons, you must be under proper authority. Jesus was submitted to the Father. Paul was submitted to the Lord Jesus. Authority flows down from the top. God is the source of all authority and if you are going to exercise authority, you must be under proper authority. The sons of Sceva were not submitted to Jesus. In the body of Christ today, there are lots of people that are not properly submitted to God, and to the spiritual authorities established by God. That is a dangerous place to be.

(Acts 19:11-16) “God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, {12} so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out. {13} But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, 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." {14} Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. {15} And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" {16} And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.”

In Matthew 8:5-13, we find a man who understood authority quite well. A centurion came to Capernaum, where Jesus lived, and he told Jesus that his servant was paralyzed at home and fearfully being tormented. He told Jesus just to say the word for his servant to be healed. Then he said, "For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes. Jesus said to him, "Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed." And the centurion's servant was healed at that very moment. Jesus marveled at the centurion's faith and said, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel." Notice two things about what the centurion said. First, he said he too was under authority. He knew that Jesus was under the authority of God, the Father. To have proper authority, you must be properly submitted to authority. Second, the centurion had people under his authority that he could command them to do things and they would do it. He understood that Jesus had authority over sickness, disease, and the demons. He knew that if Jesus commanded the sickness or demon to leave, his servant would be healed.

(Matt 8:5-13) "And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, imploring Him, {6} and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented." {7} Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." {8} But the centurion said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. {9} For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does *it*." {10} Now when Jesus heard *this*, He marveled and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel. {11} I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline *at the table* with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; {12} but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." {13} And Jesus said to the centurion, "Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed that *very* moment."

b. Jesus' Authority over sickness and disease (Mark 1:28-34)

After casting out the demonic spirit, Jesus went into Peter and Andrew's house. Peter's mother-in-law was sick with fever, and they spoke to Jesus about her. He took her hand and raised her up and the fever left her. The proof of the healing was that she got up and waited on them.

(Mark 1:29-31) "And immediately after they came out of the synagogue, they came into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. {30} Now Simon's mother-in-law was lying sick with a fever; and immediately they spoke to Jesus about her. {31} And He came to her and raised her up, taking her by the hand, and the fever left her, and she waited on them."

When evening came, after the sun had set, they began bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed. It said the whole city gathered at the door. Jesus healed many who were ill and cast out many demons. Jesus exercised authority over both demons and diseases.

(Mark 1:32-34) "When evening came, after the sun had set, they *began* bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed. {33} And the whole city had gathered at the door. {34} And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was."

Conclusion and Applications

This morning we have been looking at authority. Jesus had authority, and he taught with authority, and He ministered with authority. Are you under proper authority? Have you submitted your life to Christ? The sons of Sceva had not come under God's authority. They had not entered the kingdom of God? Have you confessed Jesus as Lord of your life? If you have not received Christ, let me encourage you to pray with me right now.

“Jesus, I believe that You came to earth and died for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day. I ask You to come into my life and forgive me of my sins. I ask You to fill me with Your Holy Spirit. I submit my life to You and confess You to be my Lord. Thank You for allowing me to be born into Your kingdom and to come under Your rule and reign. Amen.”

There may be some here this morning that feel under attack. In James 4:7, we are taught what to do when we are under attack. We are to submit therefore to God, resist the devil and he will flee from us. The first thing that we must do is get under proper authority. If you have not received Christ, I encourage you to do that this morning. If you have received Christ, but are not under proper spiritual authority, under the care of the leaders of your church, I encourage you to find a church that preaches the Word and get properly connected.

(James 4:7) “Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

In Hebrews 13:17 we are taught that we should obey and submit to our leaders, as those who give account to God for us. To me, the father of a house must give account for his wife and children, his household. In God's house, the leaders of a church must give account for those who have become part of that spiritual house – the local church. The pastors have to give account for the members of that spiritual house. If you would like to officially become a member of the Connection Church of Albuquerque, I invite you to join this morning. We have some Connection Cards, and there is a box to check that says, “I would like to become a member of Connection Church of Albuquerque.” Just fill out that card and check that box and put it in the offering box.

(Heb 13:17) “Obey your leaders and submit *to them*, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.”

God wants you and I to walk in authority. He wants us to be under proper authority, but He also wants us to teach and minister with authority. In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus said that all authority had been given to Him. Then, He told us to go and make disciples. When we go do the work of Jesus, we are operating under His authority and we can exercise that authority. We can pray and minister in the name of Jesus, because we are carrying out His business with His authority. Let me encourage everyone to go out this week in the authority of Jesus. Amen.

(Matt 28:18-20) “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.’”

Introduction (Rom 13:3-4, 2 Cor 10:8, 13:10, Luke 22:24-26, 1 Pet 5:2-3, Mark 1:21-34)

1. Jesus' Source of Authority (John 1:43-44, Mark 1:21-22, Rom 13:1, John 19:10-11, Matt 21:23-27, Luke 4:1-14, Matt 17:18-21)

2. Jesus' Authority in His teaching (Mark 1:22, Tit 2:1, 2:15)

3. Jesus' Demonstration of Authority

a. **Jesus' Authority over demons** (Mark 1:23-27, Acts 19:11-16, Matt 8:5-13)

b. **Jesus' Authority over sickness and disease** (Mark 1:28-34)

Conclusion and Applications (James 4:7, Heb 13:17, Matt 28:18-20)