



Small Group Questions: Authority

© 2015 Seacoast Church. All Rights Reserved.

Read

Mark 1:21-28, 2:5-7, and 6:7; and Matthew 28:18

Reflect

What comes to mind when you think of authority? Fear? Disgust? Gratitude? Why? We have all been burned by someone in a position of authority. We've seen power misused. We need a fresh model of true authority. Jesus is that model, and he has all authority. He has *dunamis* (ability) and *exousia* (the right) to wield it.

Pastor Greg highlights three ways that Jesus used authority:

1. Jesus freed people from current bondages.
 - a. Jesus uses his authority to set us free from bondage. What barriers or bondages are preventing you from being free?
 - b. Who can you reach out to for help? Consider potential resources such as Celebrate Recovery.
2. He forgave people from past failures.
 - a. In Mark 2:5-7, Jesus forgives a paralyzed man of his sins, and then heals him. Forgiveness of sins, first—healing, second. Otherwise, the man may have continued to be broken inside, perhaps carrying around guilt and pain...in a healed body. Is there someone you need to forgive?
 - b. Is there someone whose forgiveness you need? Even if you don't think that person will forgive you, have you shared this with God?
3. He empowered them for future purpose.
 - a. Jesus points out the faith of the paralyzed man's friends. How have your friends or family supported you when you couldn't do it alone?
 - b. How have you supported someone else?

Of the three ways that Jesus used his authority, which of the above is the most difficult for you? Why?

If we don't use our God-given authority, it may atrophy. If used wrongly, authority may corrupt and destroy. Yet, by giving away authority to those we lead and giving them the freedom to succeed or to fail, we multiply its power. How are you using your authority at work, in your family, small group, school, and with friends?

1. Does your leadership remove barriers for others?
2. Do the people you lead feel safe?
3. Do the people you lead feel empowered with purpose?

Respond

- What do you feel God is asking you to do in response to this message? What is your next step? How can your small group support you and hold you accountable in this?