

Sermon #8: He's not like the others ...

3/7/21

BREAKING THE ICE

- What impacted you most about this week's message?

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH

Read the Passage (Luke 4:31 - 41)

1. How many people do you know whom you can absolutely take at face value? When they teach, you are able to accept their words without any reservation. Why do you think there are so few?

Jesus teaches with authority:

2. The other rabbis who the people were used to hearing, taught about the Scriptures. They repeated the opinions of their predecessors in order to give their words authority. How was Jesus' teaching different?
3. Read Isaiah 55:11. How does this Old Testament passage shed light on the authority of Jesus' teaching?

Jesus' authority is evidenced in His power:

4. From Luke's narrative, Jesus was simply teaching. He hadn't spoken directly to the demonic man who was in the synagogue. What do you believe caused this man to cry out, "Go away! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God."?
5. What were the two things this demon absolutely knew and stated about Jesus?
6. How does James 2:19 connect with Luke 4:33-34, & 41.
7. Read Luke 7:21 – 23. How is Jesus' authority and power made clear to John the Baptist's disciples?
8. How does Luke 4:1 – 13 give us a deeper understand of Jesus' authority over the powers of evil?
9. What was the response of the people present in the synagogue that day? (see verses 36 – 37). Why?

The authority of Jesus and us today:

10. How are we today impacted by the authority of Jesus and His finished work upon the cross (see Col. 2:13-15).

SEEING JESUS CHRIST

The word “authority” is a strong word. It’s filled with meaning. There’s a certain force connected with this word. To some, it may produce feelings of fear or intimidation. The word denotes permission, privilege, rule, control and the ability to ‘lord over another.’ In Matthew 28:18, Jesus said, “All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me.” Yet, Jesus’ life was the polar opposite of privilege and lording over others. He is quoted as saying, “...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matt. 20:28).

- Knowing the level of authority and absolute power that Jesus possesses and His tender, servant’s heart, how should we respond? What should our lives reflect?

MAKING IT MATTER

1. How does a deeper understanding of Jesus’ authority and power impact your life today?
2. Heb. 4:15 tells us that Jesus is able to empathize with our weaknesses because He too was tempted in every way, yet did not sin. Knowing this, in what areas of your life do you need to rely more on the power and authority of Jesus? How will you do so?
3. Heb. 10:25 reminds us of the importance of being in community with other believers. How is community able to strengthen your confidence in Jesus’ power and authority in your life?
4. How could your small group pray for you this week?

PRAYING FOR GOD’S POWER

“This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him.” 1 John 5:14-15

When we pray according to God’s will it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these things in our own strength, then it is just legalistic obedience. But, when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational AND it glorifies God.

1. Ask people to share one key, specific application from today’s lesson that they want God to bring about in their life. Then take time to pray for each other in these areas.