



CALLED OUT

Day 1: Jesus' Authority

Read Mark 1:21-28. Who in the text first recognizes Jesus as the Holy One of God? Does this surprise you? Read James 2:19. How does Jesus show His authority over the evil spirit? How does the authority manifested in Jesus' actions validate and authenticate the authority of His teachings? Notice the people's reaction to Jesus' teaching (*Mark 1:22,27*). When you read Jesus' words in Scripture, do you see them as authoritative in your life; do you respond to their authority? Ask Jesus to transform your heart and life with His words of truth and authority.

Day 2: Authority from Above

Ponder Jesus' authority (and consider listing signs or affirmations of it) as you read Matthew 28:18; John 1:1-18; 5:24-27; 14:6-11; 19:6-11; and Revelation 19:11-13,16. Jesus doesn't just speak with authority and perform wonders, which validate His authority, He is ultimate Authority in human flesh. Do we really believe this? If so, do we take it seriously? What difference will it make in our lives if we do so? In our 21st Century culture, many do not recognize or bow before any authority or ultimate truth. Do you? Read Philippians 2:5-11. Who will ultimately recognize Jesus' Lordship? Tell Jesus you want to know the joy of confessing Him as Lord today.

Day 3: A Lamp and a Light

Read Psalm 119:105; John 1:1,14; 6:14; 17:17; 21:24; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; and Hebrews 4:12a. Jesus speaks with God's voice; Jesus' authority is birthed of God's. Jesus quotes the Hebrew Scriptures (God's words) and refers to them as spiritual food (*Matthew 4:4*); later He tells His followers that He (the Living Word) is the bread of life, the one whom we must believe and receive (*John 6:26-69*). Jesus cannot be separated from His words, and His words—cradled in Scripture—give life. With the light of the Living Word illuminating the written word, we receive God's truth into our hearts. Ask the Spirit to make God's Word a lamp for your feet and a light for your path.

Day 4: Pushing Back the Darkness

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we say, "Thy kingdom come...and deliver us from evil..." (*Matthew 6:10,13a*). Read Mark 1:21-28 and John 1:1-5,9-13. In these passages, do you see God's kingdom coming; do you see deliverance from evil; do you see light dispelling the darkness? Do you see Scripture being fulfilled (*Isaiah 9:2; Luke 1:78-79; 2:29-32*)? Does this make you want to shout, "Hallelujah!"? Not all darkness comes cloaked in the demonic. Is there darkness in your life? Ask Jesus to bring the light of His presence into the dark areas of your life.

Day 5: Mighty Powers of Darkness

Read Mark 1:21-28. Do you believe Jesus cast out unclean spirits? Do you believe there are spiritual forces of evil in our world today? Read Acts 19:17-20; Ephesians 6:10-18; James 4:7-10; 1 Peter 5:8-9a; and 1 John 4:4. We needn't fear the evil one, for Jesus demonstrated authority over evil, and in Him,

we are safe. But we must flee from involvement with anything that draws us into the darkness. What is our only offensive weapon against Satan (*Ephesians 6:17b*)? Thank Jesus for being light and for your safety in Him.

Day 6: Our Freedom in Christ

Read Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37; and John 8:31-36. Imagine the joy of the one whom Jesus freed. Might his jubilant cry have echoed the lyrics of a song by Jon Egan: "Through You (Jesus) the darkness flees; through You my heart screams, 'I am free to run; I am free to dance; I am free to live for You; I am free.'" (2004, Vertical Worship)? Consider the words, "I am free to live for You." Our freedom in Christ is freedom from darkness and freedom to live in the light; it is freedom to live FOR JESUS. Do you see your Christian freedom as a call to live for Him? Tell Jesus you want Him to help you run into His glorious presence and abide there forever.

Day 7: Delegated Authority

Read Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 9:1-2; Acts 4:1-37; and 2 Corinthians 4:5-7. Who today is called to minister with the authority of Jesus? Is the redemptive power of Jesus' authority evident in your life? Do you want to live with an Acts 4 kind of faith? Read Acts 4 again: what are the blessings; are there any drawbacks? Do you hunger for more of Jesus, for more of His authority, power, and redemptive transformation in your life and in the lives of those to whom you reach out in His name and with His love? Are you fully alive spiritually? Tell Jesus you want to be filled with His Spirit and empowered to reflect His love and invite others into His light, freedom, joy, and eternal presence.