

# Amazing Authority

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February 16, 2025 ▪ Ryan Wildauer

**Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ with authority.** (vv. 31-32)

**Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ authority.** (vv. 33-35)

**Amazement of Jesus \_\_\_\_\_.** (vv. 35-37)

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## **Luke 4:31-37**

<sup>31</sup> And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, <sup>32</sup> and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority.

<sup>33</sup> And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, <sup>34</sup> "Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God."

<sup>35</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm.

<sup>36</sup> And they were all amazed and said to one another, "What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!" <sup>37</sup> And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region. (ESV)

## ***Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions***

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**Open:** What is a situation in your life where you felt overwhelmed or powerless?

### **Read & Discuss: Luke 4:31-37**

1. What are all the things we can learn about Jesus from verses 31-32? Based on your knowledge of Jesus' teaching in Scripture, what might have made Jesus' teaching cause people to feel "astonished" or to sense that "his word possessed authority" (v. 32. *See also Mark 1:22.*)? (What might cause you to feel this way about someone's teaching?)
2. The man who had the "unclean demon" met Jesus in the synagogue (v. 33). What does this suggest about the boldness of demons? What are some ways that we might underestimate demons and their influence? (*See 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Corinthians 11:14; Ephesians 6:11-12.*) How can we recognize when we or someone else might be under demonic influence? What would be a biblical response to such a situation?
3. What do verses 34-35 teach us about Jesus' authority over demons? How does (or should) this affect your own spiritual challenges? Why do you suppose Luke stressed that the demon did the man "no harm" when it came out of him at Jesus' command? (v. 35)?
4. Why would Jesus' authority over demons have so amazed the people (v. 36)? What would be the implications of this truth for their lives? To what extent do we have authority or power over demons? (*See Acts 16:16-18; James 4:7; Ephesians 6:10-11.*) What must be true of us if we're going to be successful in resisting or overcoming Satan?
5. In verses 36-37, how does the news about Jesus spread, and why is this significant? What limits our commitment to be involved in spreading reports about Jesus? What can we learn from their example about how to better do this ourselves?

**Apply:** What is one area of your life in which you need to better submit to Jesus' teaching and authority or one area of your life in which you need to better trust Jesus' power and authority? What will you do to achieve this?

**Pray:** Pray we would live with a joyful submission to Jesus' authority and a glad confidence in Jesus' power.