

Series Title: To Seek and Save the Lost

Sermon Title: 100%

Scripture: Luke 4:31-44 (p. 887)

Key Idea: There is nothing outside Jesus' command—Jesus' authority is 100%.

Introduction:

So, there's hardly any of you that don't know that before God called me into ministry, I worked as an engineer.

So, obviously math-science stuff has always been an interest of mine.

Actually, when our kids were little, we homeschooled them through their first few grades, and my responsibility was to be their science teacher. And always, sometime during our lesson, usually right at the beginning, we'd always put our hands in for the science cheer I came up with to get us hyped for learning.

Naomi was still too little, but the boys were into it. We'd all put our hands in, and shout together: 3-2-1-science!

Well, I tell you, the real reason I loved science growing up, was actually some of the experiments I'd witnessed. Like when the team came from the science museum and held a racquetball submerged in liquid nitrogen, and then threw it up against a wall, and we watched the rubber shatter like glass.

Or quite a bit later, when my kids were little, and we went to the state fair and the local university physics department put on a show—they heated and heated and heated this metal container—I think it was an oil drum. Then they sealed it tight and poured cold water over it.

They poured and poured, lowering the temperature of the can and the air inside, until all of a sudden, bang, the container crushed like some giant invisible hand just grabbed and squeezed it to death—remember how Popeye used to squeeze open his spinach cans? It was like that—only much more sudden, and much more violent.

Well, never mind those, I wanted to take a minute this morning and tell you about another couple of the most amazing science demonstrations I've ever seen—one of them just a couple of years ago by an internet content creator with a show called action lab.

The host was demonstrating the theory of the white hole—you all know what a black hole is, a celestial object so massive and dense that it's gravity inescapably sucks in everything around it—nothing can escape—not even light. It's why it's called a black hole—because it's only darkness—because not even light can get away.

Well, a white hole is the exact opposite. Borne by the same theory that came up with black holes, the white hole is supposedly a singularity that doesn't suck in everything around it, but spits out everything within it. And just like it's mirror twin, the black hole, there's a point called the event

horizon where nothing can cross into the white hole's perimeter. And anything that it spits out, can never go back in again.

And the way he simulated the white hole was so simple, yet at the same time so elegant.

I'll post a link to his video where he goes into the science a bit more,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3P4iKb24Ng>

But what he did was: he just ran water out of the faucet into his kitchen sink, and he showed that as the water came down, it would hit the flat surface and spread out evenly in all directions, then when it got a certain distance away, the water would try to flow back towards the middle but couldn't because of the constant water coming down and quickly flowing out.

And so what would happen is: the water trying to get back to the center would pile up in a ring around the constant in-flow, and create an event horizon.

Then he dropped food coloring outside the ring, and none of it could get in, and then he dropped some dye inside, and immediately it shot out—never able to return. Never able to get back in because the white hole wouldn't let it.

Well, that reminded me of the other experiment I wanted to tell you about.

This was when I was a senior in high school, and I was applying for college scholarships.

In an effort to entice us to accept the scholarship they were awarding (a successful effort by the way) Exxon brought me and a couple of other students to one of their research labs and showed us some of their developing technologies. And in this case, it was tech to help clean up oil spills.

And to demonstrate, they had water in a glass container, and then they spread oil on top, to simulate a spill.

Then they used one of those droppers from chemistry class and let fall just one or two drops of this clear liquid, and almost like magic, all the oil instantly shot to the edges of the glass. That oil couldn't get away from the chemical fast enough.

Y'ever see dishwashing liquid break up grease in water? It was kind of like that but on a whole other level—order of magnitude.

It was crazy— no, it was amazing.

Well, hopefully you remember from last time: we were talking about Luke chapter 4, verses 31 to the end of the chapter.

And what we were learning there was that there is nothing outside Jesus' command—that Jesus' authority is 100%.

And we saw that authority demonstrated in the first few verses in how Jesus delivered a man in the synagogue from demon possession.

That there was a man in the synagogue, actually there during the worship service while Jesus was teaching, and that that man was inhabited—possessed by a demon.

And under the pressure of Jesus' teaching, the demon couldn't withstand the weight of Jesus' voice, and the demon cried out through the man:

³⁴ "Leave us alone! What do you have to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

The demon revealed himself under the suffocating weight of Jesus' holy presence—His glory, even hidden though it was.

I've told you before that glory is one of my favorite Hebrew words in the Old Testament—because the word we translate as glory is actually the concept of heaviness, or weightiness.

That demon who knew who Jesus was—who knew this Jesus was God Himself—the demon couldn't endure the crushing weight of God's presence, so he cried out, blowing his cover.

And when Jesus commanded back to the demon, the demon could offer no resistance.

Jesus rebuked the demon, and even silenced the demon. So that His holiness would not be in the mouth of one so unholy as this demon—this opponent of God.

Jesus scolded and silenced the demon, and at once—without hesitation, the demon came right out of him.

And the people were even that much more amazed:

"What message is this? ... He commands the unclean spirits with authority and power, and they come out!"

And everyone was in awe, and Jesus' name was spreading.

Because Jesus had authority.

Because there is nothing outside Jesus' command. Because Jesus' authority is 100%.

Well, we want to pick up where we left off last week, and today, we're going to see that Jesus' authority was not just over the demonic—over the spiritual, but over the practical as well, as Jesus exercised the same authority he used to drive out demons in order to drive out sickness as well.

Just like the white hole, and the oil dispersant—when Jesus’ word spoke to sickness, it shot out like a bullet—couldn’t leave its victims fast enough.

So, if you’ve got your bible, let me invite you to join me in Luke 4, and we’re going to cover verses 38 to the end. But I want us to start reading in verse 31, because this whole section is really about one lesson.

That Jesus’ authority is 100% and that there is nothing outside His command.

If you need a bible, raise your hand, and you can find us on page 887.

But Luke 4:31: After leaving Nazareth...

³¹ ... [Jesus] went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and was teaching them on the Sabbath. ³² They were astonished at His teaching because His message had authority.

³³ In the synagogue there was a man with an unclean demonic spirit who cried out with a loud voice,

³⁴ “Leave us alone! What do you have to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are— the Holy One of God!”

³⁵ But Jesus rebuked him and said, “Be silent and come out of him!”

And throwing him down before them, the demon came out of him without hurting him at all.

³⁶ Amazement came over them all, and they were saying to one another, “What is this message? For He commands the unclean spirits with authority and power, and they come out!”

³⁷ And news about Him began to go out to every place in the vicinity.

³⁸ After He left the synagogue, He entered Simon’s house.

Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked him about her.

³⁹ So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her.

She got up immediately and began to serve them.

⁴⁰ When the sun was setting, all those who had anyone sick with various diseases brought them to Him.

As He laid His hands on each one of them, He healed them.

⁴¹ Also, demons were coming out of many, shouting and saying, “You are the Son of God!” But He rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew He was the Messiah.

⁴² When it was day, He went out and made His way to a deserted place. But the crowds were searching for Him. They came to Him and tried to keep Him from leaving them.

⁴³ But He said to them, “It is necessary for me to proclaim the good news about the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because I was sent for this purpose.”

⁴⁴ And He was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

So, you’ll remember that the central theme of this passage—the key idea is that Jesus’ authority is 100%. That Jesus’ authority is absolute.

And that there were three ways Jesus demonstrated that authority in this passage: and that in each of those demonstrations, Jesus executed His authority towards the good of His people—towards the good of those who belong to Him.

And the first demonstration of Jesus’ authority as we saw last week was that...

I. Jesus, has command over all knowledge.

- A. Verses 31 and 32 showed that Jesus was the authority over knowledge—over the sum of all information—
 - i. That includes all that we know, all that has been lost to time, and all that has yet to be revealed,
 - 1. And not just earthly, natural knowledge, but perfect knowledge of the supernatural as well.
 - a. In theology we call this command of all knowledge omniscience.
 - i. Omni-science—all knowing.
- B. Jesus is the owner of all knowledge
 - i. The possessor of all wisdom.
 - ii. The giver of all understanding.
 - iii. The judge of all morality.
 - iv. The source of all reality.
- C. And He demonstrates His command over knowledge in His teaching.
 - i. That unlike any other teacher the Capernaans had ever heard, this Jesus, taught with authority (**verse 32**)
 - 1. Jesus taught with authority because He had authority—because Jesus was authority—embodied authority.
 - a. It was Jesus’ singular right to interpret reality and to dictate morality because He was the creator of it all.
 - i. Everything exists (**Colossians 1:16**) by Him and for Him.
 - ii. And without Him (**John 1**) nothing was made that has been made.

- D. Jesus taught with authority because as the origin of all creation, He had authority over it—has authority over it (present tense).
 - i. Jesus as God alone has the inherent right to command our perception and our obedience, our reality and our morality—
 - 1. because He alone has inherent—self-existent command authority to know and to teach, and to demand of and for His creation.
- E. Jesus had all command over all knowledge, and the people in the Synagogue there in Capernaum recognized that.

But there was someone else there who recognized Jesus' authority as well—particularly Jesus' authority over him.

Verse 33: As Jesus was teaching in the synagogue that sabbath—that day set aside for worship and instruction from God's word, there was one there who wasn't of this world—a demon hiding out in a man's body.

A demon who had infiltrated their ranks, one who was secretly making mischief—perhaps trying to sway people away from their faithfulness to God.

But Jesus showed that as much authority as He had over knowledge, He had just as much over the demon.

And in reality His command over the demon, as we're going to see in just a few more verses was not just that, but it was command over all things supernatural. That...

II. Jesus, has command over all things spiritual.

- A. Jesus didn't just have command over that demon, but over every demon He would ever encounter.
 - i. Every demon that came to Him, oppressing some hapless victim, Jesus would scold and silence—would rebuke them and remove them from the people they were terrorizing.
 - 1. Jesus was freeing the oppressed.
 - a. Remember what we read a couple weeks ago?
 - i. Jesus preached at Nazareth (**Isaiah 61/ Luke 4**)
 - 1. The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.
 - 2. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,
 - 3. to set free the oppressed,
 - 4. to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.
- B. Driving out demons, Jesus was releasing the captive and setting free the oppressed.
 - i. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captive and freedom to the oppressed, and the year of the Lord's favor—
 - 1. That day, in their presence, that scripture was coming to pass right before their eyes.
- C. Jesus freed the victims of demons because He had command over all things spiritual.

- i. No demon could withstand the weight of His glory or the power of His word.
- D. Jesus has command over all things spiritual.

Which brings us to today.

The third sphere in which Jesus demonstrates His authority and power is over the natural—

Jesus already showed His command over the demon, but this Jesus commands even nature itself—Even sickness is no match for Jesus, because Jesus’ authority extends even to all things practical.

Jesus’ authority is even over the day to day.

III. Jesus has command over all things practical.

- A. Over even the normal.
- B. Take another quick look at **verse 38**.
- C. After casting out the demon, Jesus left the synagogue and He made His way to the home of his later disciple Simon-Peter.
 - i. Now *Simon’s mother-in-law, (Verse 38) was suffering from a high fever, and they asked him about her.*
 - 1. ³⁹*So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her.*
 - 2. *[And] She got up immediately and began to serve them.*
- D. This is Jesus proving His authority over not just the supernatural, heavenly, spiritual realm, but over the day to day.
 - i. Over what affects you and me personally in our mundane, everyday existence.
 - 1. And not only does it reveal His authority, but His compassion.
 - 2. Jesus cares about us—He cares about you.
 - a. You know, one of the things that has been a big problem in the church for about the last 100 years, when the church, at least in America, divided between liberals and fundamentalists.
 - i. And for the record, I think that the fundamentalists were more right about the majority of the differences that divided them, but one of the key deficiencies. The key problems in both was that they both shrunk the gospel.
 - 1. The liberalist churches, made the gospel mission all about social justice, and improving life in the here and now—alleviating personal human suffering—
 - a. but minimizing the Gospel call to repentance and faith—
 - b. to turning from our sin and turning to Jesus for forgiveness and freedom, and salvation—eternal life.
 - 2. On the other hand the fundamentalists shifted focus pretty much to the eternal implications of the Gospel exclusively.
 - a. That all mission was only about getting people into heaven after they die, with little concern over the state of lives in the here and now.

- b. Little care over improving life-conditions here, because now is temporary, but then is forever— we've gotta focus on eternity.
 - i. And they were right.
 - ii. To a degree, eternity is more important,
- 3. But when we look at Jesus' ministry what did we see?
 - a. It was never either/or, it was always both/and.
 - i. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me for He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor, freedom for the captive, recovery of sight to the blind, rescue for the oppressed, (the oppressed of satan and the oppressed of man), and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor—the Lord's forgiveness.
 - ii. One of my favorite theological words, started out as one of my least favorite: propitiation.
 - iii. Jesus is our propitiation, and the reason I disliked that word is because it's a big word nobody uses, and I do my best to sweep away jargon so that regular people like us can understand better.
 - iv. But why I came to love propitiation was because of how it was explained to me in my ordination discussion group. That propitiation is what makes God for us—pro us. What makes God favorably inclined towards us—the year of the Lord's favor, and that propitiation is the forgiveness offered by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, where He paid the price for all of our sin—that if we should put our trust in Him, no longer would our sin warrant us God's rightly deserved anger and condemnation, but instead Jesus' sacrifice would warrant God's welcome and embrace.
 - v. Faith in Jesus would give us an eternity—eternal life.
 - vi. Love it!
 - b. But the thing I wanted to point out—the thing I wanted us to take notice of here was that Jesus was about both—about now and not yet—about this day and that day.
 - i. That Jesus came to give us life today and life everlasting—Jesus came that we might have life and have it to the full.
 - ii. That Jesus wanted to heal and help us body and soul, not body or soul.
- 4. One of the early false teachings of the church was that what we did in the body didn't matter—that the physical world was inherently and irredeemably evil—so do whatever you want with the body,

- a. but the life and ministry of Jesus proved that completely untrue, because He cared for the whole person, body and soul—He ministered to the whole person.
 - 5. He rebuked and cast out the demon, and in the same way He rebuked and cast out sickness.
 - 6. He executed authority over the spiritual, and that same authority over the practical.
- E. And Jesus healed Simon’s mother-in-law so quickly and so thoroughly (verse 39) that what did she do?
 - i. She immediately got up off of her sick bed—and started serving them.
 - ii. She did not rest in her healing, but immediately responded to Jesus grace, and started serving Him with her life—started serving Him and the church He was serving—the little band that was beginning to follow Him.
 - 1. She started living her testimony, and not just talking about it.
 - a. Letting people not only hear, but see the difference Jesus made in her life—and she started immediately, without hesitation.
- F. With the same rebuke—the same voice that Jesus drove out the demon, Jesus drove out her sickness, as fast and as completely as the oil was driven away in my science experiment,
 - i. And Simon’s mother-in-law, experienced the rescue, recovery, release, and favor inherent in the good-news, the gospel that Jesus preached.
- G. Jesus had— Jesus has absolute authority— demonstrated 100% authority over both the natural and the supernatural—the spiritual and the material—the normal,
 - i. and what happened?
- H. More and more wanted to know this authority for themselves.
 - i. More and more were coming to Him (verse 40).
 - ii. *⁴⁰When the sun was setting,*
 - 1. (that is: after the sabbath had been completed, because they regarded their day from sunset to sunset, rather than sunrise to sunrise like we do)
 - iii. *When the sun was setting*
 - 1. and the sabbath was *over*, and there was no risk of violating any of the laws that limited healing on the sabbath—
 - 2. when there was no more fear in the people—
 - a. *all those who had anyone sick with various diseases brought them to Him.*
 - iv. [and] *As He laid His hands on each one of them, He healed them.*
 - v. [and] (verse 41) *demons were coming out of many, shouting and saying, “You are the Son of God!”*
 - vi. *But (just as He had done in the synagogue) He rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew He was the Messiah.*

Jesus showed His authority over all things—the physical and the spiritual, the natural and the supernatural, the present and the future, the seen and the unseen.

Jesus has command over it all. Jesus’ command is 100%.

And I told you the last thing was that Jesus executes His authority for our good—for the good of those who love Him.

A favorite scripture, I'm sure, of many of you: **Romans 8:28**:

We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

IV. Jesus executes His absolute authority over all things , towards our good.

- A. Towards all our good—the good of those who are His.
- B. Because verse 42: After He was done serving everyone who had come for healing and release, Jesus left Simon's house—
 - i. Looks like Jesus was working well into the night—maybe even all night.
 - 1. But verse **42**:
 - a. *⁴² When it was day, He went out and made His way to a deserted place. But the crowds were searching for Him. They came to Him and tried to keep Him from leaving them.*
 - b. And this is the piece I wanted us to take note of.
 - i. *The crowds came to try to keep him from leaving them (42)*
 - ii. *⁴³ But (43) He said to them, "It is necessary for me to proclaim the good news about the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because I was sent for this purpose."*
 - 1. *⁴⁴ And He was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.*
- C. The crowd tried to get Jesus to stay there with them—
 - i. And that's totally understandable—who wouldn't want to keep one around who could save from demons and from sickness—one who has power and authority over all things natural and supernatural,
 - 1. But one having that power and authority, yet exercising it with kindness, grace, and compassion towards you.
 - a. That would be the world.
 - i. Having Jesus personally in your midst like that.
 - ii. So understandably they wanted Jesus to stick around.
- D. But as much compassion as He had for them in particular, His mission was to all.
 - i. His mission was to relay the good news to the multitudes—to take the Gospel all over the place.
 - 1. To proclaim far and wide, the year of the Lord's favor.
 - a. He had to broadcast the Gospel all around—and not just in Capernaum, so that eventually the whole world would hear.
 - i. So that eventually, you and I could hear, and yield our hearts to the one whose authority rightly deserves our allegiance.
 - ii. But the one who uses His authority not for His comfort or ease, but for our good.
 - 1. *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.*

- E. Jesus said, *“It is necessary for me to proclaim the good news about the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because I was sent for this purpose.”*
- F. Jesus came with authority to serve the good of all.
 - i. Jesus came with authority to serve your good.
 - 1. So yield to Him.
 - 2. Yield to Him and embrace Him.

Conclusion

There is nothing outside Jesus’ command—Jesus’ authority is 100%.

And Jesus executes His authority towards the good of His people. So, embrace Him and enjoy Him as God and Savior.

Let’s pray!