

Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup>

Epiphany 4

Jesus demonstrates His authority



### Readings

**New Testament: Revelation 12: 1 – 5**

**Gospel: Mark 1: 21 - 28**

Lord, as I look in a mirror help me to remember the choices I have.

Help me to listen to those who have a genuine authority and who show they care and understand.

Help me to remember that God loves us all, those of us in positions of authority, and those who have to listen to others.

Help me to recognise that Jesus gives us so much more than a few miracles. He gives us the ultimate sacrifice in love; he shows his authority through his whole life.

Help me to choose to be someone who has a genuine authority and who shows they care and understand.

Help me, God, who gives us the authority of your name, to show your love to others.

Lord you have taught us how to live. Help us to follow the example of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen

Do you know what it means to have authority? Authority means someone or something is in charge. It means that for some reason, they have the ability to tell you what to do. For instance, the police have authority to make sure we obey the laws. A teacher has authority to give you a grade, and to communicate the information you need to know in school. Someone who writes an important book or article might have authority to tell you information because they've studied and know a lot about a topic. Well, what about Jesus? How can we know that He has authority, and where does His authority come from? In the Gospel lesson today, people noticed the power of Jesus and how He taught with authority. He wasn't just saying fancy words, but seemed to really know what He was talking about, and the people were impressed. But they became even more impressed when Jesus put action behind His words

### Jesus Drives Out an Impure Spirit

<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup> The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. <sup>23</sup> Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, <sup>24</sup> "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!"

<sup>25</sup> "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" <sup>26</sup> The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

<sup>27</sup> The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him." <sup>28</sup> News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

The man that had an unclean spirit inside him means there was some sort of evil that he had let over power him.

A game, complete with a copy of the rules, with which the children are familiar. The people were amazed at Jesus' teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Mark 1:22 (NIV)

Do you enjoy playing games? I do. I especially enjoy getting together with a group of family or friends and playing games. One of the games I enjoy is called pairs. Have any of you ever played pairs? It is very easy to play, but like most games, before you play, you must read the rules so that you will know how to play the game.

Who makes up the rules for a game? The person who makes up the game makes the rules, don't they? The one who created the game, makes rules for the enjoyment of all who play the game. If someone doesn't follow those rules, it takes away from the enjoyment of the game, doesn't it? Have you ever played a game with someone who won't follow the rules? Do you always follow the rules?

There are rules that we must follow in the game of life too. Look, I have the rulebook right here. The Bible is the rulebook we must follow in life. Who wrote the rules? God

did. God created life and He wrote the rules. Just as the creator of a game makes rules to ensure the enjoyment of all who play his game, God wrote these rules so that all who live life might enjoy it the way he intended for them to enjoy it.

One day Jesus went into the temple and started teaching. The Bible tells us that the people who heard him were amazed at his teaching. He didn't sound like their regular teachers. He didn't sound like someone who knew about the rules, he sounded like someone who had written the rules. Well, guess what? He did write the rules! Jesus was God -- in human form -- who came to earth to teach us how to live.

God made the rules and He showed us how to follow the rules. Now He wants us to follow the rules so that we will enjoy life the way He intended it to be.

Dear Father, you have taught us how to live. Help us to follow the example of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Who has power over you? Who gives you instructions or information? Now, I look to a lot of various sources to get instruction I might read about current events in a newspaper, to find out what's going on around me. Or if I want to know about something that happened a long time ago, I could look in a history book or an encyclopedia. These were big thick books that gave people information before the internet came along... If I want to know how to do something, I could look in an instruction manual or a cookbook. I know that I can rely on sources like these because the people who wrote them have been given that ability. They might have degrees from school, or be experts on topics, or maybe they've been recommended by someone else. Now, we all might have to take directions from other people in our life. Your parents, teachers or our vicar might all have rules and instructions that they ask us to follow. We know that they have the power to ask or tell us things to do, because their authority comes from God Himself. Well, even that evil demon recognized Jesus, because it cried out asking what Jesus was going to do. Jesus told the spirit to be quiet, and made it come right out of the man, restoring him to health and sanity. The people who saw the event take place were amazed. They realized that Jesus did have true authority. He taught like He knew what He was saying, because He really did know what He was saying. He had control even over the powers of evil and darkness. He had the strength to control and teach anyone and anything...not everyone who saw Jesus believed this. But those who recognized His authority also recognized His love, and saw that He had authority from God.

And what do we take from this? Well, we know that Jesus still does have strength and authority. His words are true and reliable, more so than anything else we could read or hear or imagine. His authority comes from God. And where do we get His words? From the Bible, of course! This is our source of information, and we know it is the true word of God. We know that Jesus has power, and that we can trust what He says. We can pray to Him, knowing He cares for us and loves us and hears us. When we rely upon Him, we can have confidence He will provide. We can listen to Him and know that He's in control.

# Jesus in the Synagogue

The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Mark 1:22

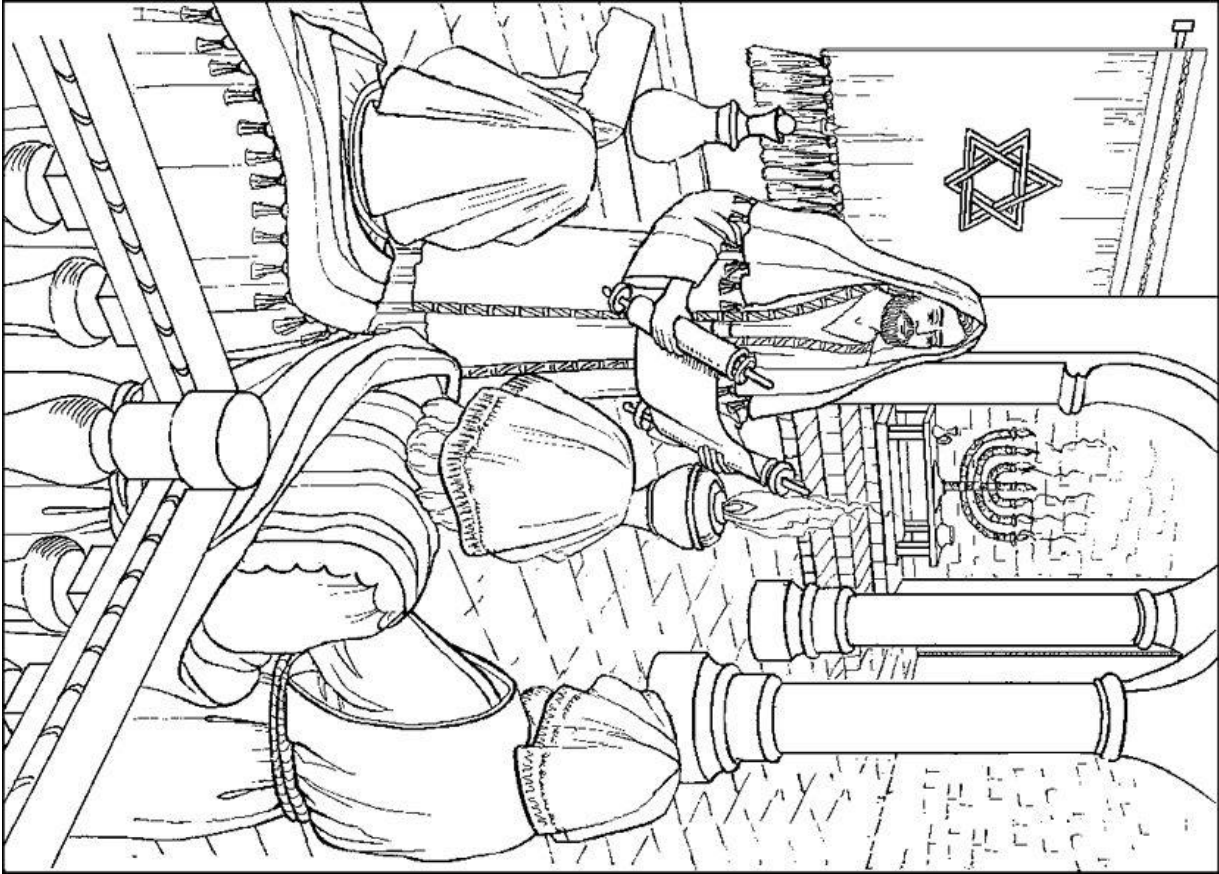
Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



R	O	P	U	G	J	E	Z	Q	W	X	F	V	L	K	T	I	D	C	M	A	B	H	N	S	Y
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 1. 25-21-22-22-21-16-23 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. 25-26-24-21-5-2-5-4-7 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. 16-7-21-19-23-17-24-5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. 21-20-21-8-7-18 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. 25-3-17-1-17-16 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. 25-23-2-2-15 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. 9-4-17-7-16 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. 25-23-1-17-7-15 \_\_\_\_\_

AMAZED	SYNAGOGUE	SHOOK	SABBATH
SHRIEK	TEACHING	SPIRIT	QUIET



Jesus in the synagogue





The people were amazed because Jesus taught them as one who had \_\_\_\_\_.

Mark 1:22 (NIV)

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8

9

## The B - I - B - L - E

Composer Unknown

The B - I - B - L - E, Yes, that's the book for me; I  
The B - I - B - L - E, A trea - sure book for me; A

stand a - lone on the Word of God, the B - I - B - L - E.  
treasure book is the Word of God, the B - I - B - L - E.

## “Jesus Wins” Trophy



### You will need:

- Paper (wrapping or card)
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers, glitter, or other decorations
- Two cups (Styrofoam or paper)
- Scissors
- Tape or glue
- Aluminum foil

### Procedure (use one of these ideas or adapt and do others):

1. Place two cups on top of each other, with the bottoms of the cups together. Tape the sides to secure the cups together.
2. Cover the stacked cups with aluminum foil, wrapping and taping to completely surround.
3. Add “handles” to the sides with twisted foil or pipe cleaner, taping to secure.
4. Add a verse or caption to acknowledge that this is a “trophy”.
5. Add extra decorations such as stickers, glitter, or other elements. Display as a decorative reminder that Jesus wins the victory!

You can copy the band around the cup in the picture or think of other words making sure it is a trophy for Jesus.

