



#5 First Day at the Office | Pastor Bobby Moore | July 12, 2009

A. Fellowship Time (10-15 minutes)

1. Chitchat. Perhaps offer coffee, tea, or a cold drink with some snacks.
2. Pray (or invite someone to pray) to open the discussion.

B. Review Time (Read the summary below to the group: 5-10 minutes)

Mark 21-22: *They went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath He [Jesus] entered the synagogue and began to teach. They were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

What was so different about Jesus' teaching that people immediately recognized He had authority?

1. Jesus comes with authority.

During Jesus' time, it was not traditional to speak from one's own wisdom and understanding. But that's exactly what Jesus did. Why was He able to do so? Because He was God in the flesh, the ultimate authority. He was the original author.

John 1:1: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

John 1:14: *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

Jesus was the Word that became flesh. Jesus was in the beginning. Jesus was and is God!

What does this authority of Jesus mean to you and me? When we choose to accept the call from Jesus Christ—the call to make Him Lord of our life—we are also given authority. We do not have authority on our own, but we have the authority of Christ living in us. Note

Galatians 2:20: *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."* In and of ourselves we are completely insufficient to do what God wants us to do. But because of Christ in us, we too have been given authority. It's a team effort.

So what did Jesus do with His authority? Consider what happens in **Mark 1:23-28:**

Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, saying, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" And Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" Throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him. They were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him." Immediately the news about Him spread everywhere into all the surrounding district of Galilee.

2. Jesus brings deliverance.

Not only do those present in the synagogue sense Jesus' authority in His teaching, but now He reinforces it by casting out a demon. He told of His fulfillment of prophecy in **Luke 4:18-21** [read this passage together]. Now He is proving the fulfillment of this very prophecy. He came to use His authority to deliver all who would call upon His name. In **Matthew 11:28** He invites, *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*

What does Jesus' invitation mean to you and me? Jesus wants to deliver us from the things that bind us, and He will do so if we ask. And as His disciples, we have been given this message to help others be delivered as well. Perhaps you're aware of some bad circumstances

or hardships in others' lives around you, and you want to say something or feel like God wants you to say something. But at the same time you may be paralyzed in your unbelief that Jesus could actually use you. These are precisely the moments when we need to remember it's not about us—the authority and power for deliverance come from God!

3. Jesus will bring healing. (Read **Mark 1:29-34** together.)

Jesus' ministry centered around teaching and healing. **Matthew 9:35:** "*Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.*" Sometimes it's hard for us to believe that Jesus would even be bothered to heal us when we are in need because there are so many larger concerns in the world. But He heals things small and large. Consider how He healed the fever of Peter's mother-in-law. We can trust His interest in healing any ailment no matter the size, because most importantly He wants to heal our hearts. Jesus speaks of Himself and His ministry from **Isaiah 61:1-3**:

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners; to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.

Where are you today? Maybe the Lord has transformed *your* life, but you need to be confident in the authority He has given you to speak into *others'* lives, to share the message of His deliverance and healing with them. Love someone enough to say something! Or maybe you're in need of deliverance or healing yourself today. It's available. Jesus has come with authority and power. We just need to surrender to Him and allow His power to work in our lives. It's not about our worthiness or ability, but "that He may be glorified."

C. Life Group Questions (select, revise, and add as desired: 20-40 minutes)

1. Why do you think the common people and the religious leaders responded so differently to Jesus' approach of teaching *with authority*?
2. What has Jesus' authoritative Word meant in your life, both for yourself and for others—how has it brought rest? What are one or two of Jesus' teachings that have most affected the way you think and live?
3. How hesitant are you to offer God's healing power of deliverance to others, and what causes such hesitation? What keeps your faith alive when understandable doubts arise from some prayers not being answered according to our wishes? What approaches have worked for you in offering to pray for others in need—especially if they're not believers?
4. Open your Bibles to **Isaiah 61:1-3** and read it together again. Discuss various elements of the "good news" you see presented here and how they apply today in the contexts of your lives. What does the metaphor of God planting us as "oaks for righteousness" imply to you, and how is God glorified in this outcome?

D. Personal Application (1-3 Minutes)

- Bobby challenged us, "Love someone enough to say something!" Spread the good news!
- Continue the 40/40 challenge.

E. Prayer Time (As a whole group or subgroups of 3-4: 10-15 Minutes)

- Thank God for coming in authority as Jesus Christ to bring deliverance and healing.
- If any of you need these, pray for each other! [Leaders, read **James 5:13-15**. If you have olive oil, perhaps it's time to break it out and anoint some of your folks while your group prays over them.]
- Pray that God would move you to speak about deliverance in Christ to those you love.
- Offer any other praises or requests that arose during your discussion.