

TITLE: WHEN THE DEVIL CAME TO CHURCH

Ephesians 4

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

1Corinthians 12

28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers

The postmodern worldview has plunged our culture into an authority crisis. This crisis is not confined to the area of religious faith but is visible in every single area of life.

01 Parental authority.....

02 marital authority.....

03 political authority

04 no respect in the classroom

05 and certainly, ecclesiastical authority.... authority in the church.

06 no respect for authority

The concept of authority itself is vigorously challenged
All are being deeply questioned.

This generation resents authority.

William Barclay:

"This generation is against all authority, and the least use for the authority of the church. There is an almost total collapse of the standards in the very things for which discipline used to be imposed."

NOTE what Paul wrote to TIMOTHY about these **last days**:

2 Timothy 3

1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

NOTE: These are **sins against authority**.

- ✓ blasphemers: against the authority of conviction
- ✓ disobedient to parents: against the authority of their parents
- ✓ trucebreakers: against the authority of agreements
- ✓ Traitors: against the authority of loyalty to family and community
- ✓ lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God: against the authority of God

When the Devil Came to Church is found in Mark 1

21 And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught.

22 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.

23 And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,

24 Saying, Let [us] alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

25 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him.

26 And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.

27 And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine [is] this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.

28 And immediately his fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about Galilee.

- ② the sabbath day
- ③ he entered into the synagogue
- ④ and taught
- ⑤ one that had authority
- ⑥ and not as the scribes
- ⑦ a man with an unclean spirit

24 Saying, Let [us] alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

- ⑧ And Jesus rebuked him

26 And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.

27 And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine [is] this?

- ⑨ for with authority commandeth he
- ⑩ his fame spread

Setting:

- ① Capernaum

The Romans never came to Capernaum.

The town is mentioned in the Gospel of Luke where it reports to have been the home of the apostles Peter, Andrew, James and John, as well as the tax collector Matthew.

In Matthew 4:13, we find that it later became the home of Jesus.

Here, Jesus taught in the synagogue on the Sabbath; also, Jesus healed a man who had the spirit of an unclean devil and healed a fever in Simon Peter's mother-in-law.

According to Matthew 8:5-13, it is also the place where a Roman Centurion asked Jesus to heal his servant.

- ② the sabbath day
- ③ he entered into the synagogue
- ④ and taught
- ⑤ one that had authority
- ⑥ and not as the scribes

7 a man with an unclean spirit

24 Saying, Let [us] alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

8 And Jesus rebuked him

Notice what JESUS did....

Confrontation: God calls the ministry to preach the truth from the pulpits of our churches today. He wants the truth preached and taught. Jesus taught it that day in the synagogue, the truth forced the demon to cry out against authority.

God wants the authority of His church to challenge spirits of rebellion...

So that the Holy Ghost will lead and guide the saints in their daily walk of life, and to have a right relationship with Jesus Christ.

Not just a conciliation or negotiated agreement.....

People are seeking a warm and fuzzy feeling when they come to church on Sunday morning.

But the authority of the Word of God as spoken through the ministry calls people to crucify their flesh.

26 And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.

Notice what happened.... **opposition**

There will be opposition: Not everyone is going to applaud the message of truth. We see here in our story the demon was not applauding, not even smiling. There will be folks who will disdain the truth and reject the gospel and continue to sit quietly and try as they may, to cause hurt, pain and discontent in the family of God and to let their demons control them still. I suggest to you that they are not hearing the word taught and preached as it should be. They are being given the easy way, the feel good about themselves, watered down, politically correct, placebo message of the truth. But if they can hear the truth preached with God's authority, the convincing of the Holy Spirit and the word given with faith and the leading of the Holy Spirit, they will be changed.

Notice what JESUS required....

Submission

Third is submission: if there is no perseverance then there is no growth and no joy. If Jesus had not persevered to be in synagogue to teach and to preach that day then that man may have never been healed by God's authority. We must persevere in all things for our reward is the joy of the Lord. You think you can't ... stand any more, too much pressure, too much stress, things not going your way? Think on Job and his problems. We have all heard it said, so and so has the patience of Job, well I have always believed Job had perseverance, he persevered through it all. And because he did he was rewarded with growth and joys even greater than he had before.

26 And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.

When the man submitted.... there was **fruit**

Fourth is fruit of the Spirit: Lasting fruit that remains in the word and fruit that is of the vine, rooted deep in God. Lives that are changed, transformed, made new in the newness of Christ. We see a man cleansed of a demon and I dare suggest to you, this man remained forever in Christ, he was fruit that abides still.

Seen by others.....

27 And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine [is] this?

9 For with authority commandeth he

10 His fame spread

We see that immediately because of this removal of the unclean spirit in the synagogue, the fame of Christ spread near and far, and it was concluded that he was a teacher come from God.

Unity

Notice the result....

5. **Revival**

THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORITY

Authorities set boundaries for our protection.

Authorities set and inflict penalties for injustices done.

Authorities arbitrate in the matters of indifference.

Authorities give counsel when direction is needed.

It was **God who ordained AUTHORITY**: Ephesians 6.1-9

① GOD: the head of Christ is God

② The WORD of God

③ Church leadership: Pastor, 5 Fold Ministry, Elders: Hebrews 13:17

④ Parent: Ephesians 6

⑤ Husband: 1 Peter 3:1, Colossians 3:18, Ephesians 5:22

⑥ Government, Civil authorities: Romans 13, 1 Peter 2:17

⑦ Employer: Ephesians 6, 1 Peter 2:18

MORE SPECIFICALLY, Church authorities

Authorities keep watch over our souls.

Authorities raise us up and train us for ministry.

Authorities release us into destiny.

Authorities love us, encourage us and discipline us.

Authorities guide us.

Authorities prepare the way for those behind them.

THE AUTHORITY of the CHURCH:

WE NEED AUTHORITY IN OUR LIVES

God told Jeremiah

Jeremiah 10

23 O LORD, I know that the way of man [is] not in himself: [it is] not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

24 O LORD, correct me, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing.

It is MOST IMPORTANT to **teach your children to respect** the AUTHORITY of...

① The WORD of GOD

② The Pastor of the CHURCH

③ The LEADERSHIP of the CHURCH

④ The TEACHINGS of the CHURCH

BUT according to the WORD of GOD, the highest authorities in our lives are:

- ① The WORD of GOD
- ② The Pastor of the CHURCH
- ③ The LEADERSHIP of the CHURCH
- ④ The TEACHINGS of the CHURCH

IMPORTANT:

And if you don't trust the Pastor with your money and your family, you need to change churches and find you a preacher you can trust.

And then say, "Family, we're getting behind him, and we're following him wherever he goes."

⑥ CONSEQUENCES

NOTE:

Unless you honor authority in your life, your children will not honor authority.

Yours or anyone else's.

GALATIANS 6

7 ... whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

It is ABSOLUTELY imperative to teach children that they must submit to authority.

So many battles and difficulties that we face in life begin with nothing more than rebellion against the authority... that God has placed over us because we don't like or agree with that person in the position of authority or the structure of authority.

- ✓ Rebellion was the reason that Lucifer fell from Heaven
rebellion against the power and authority of Almighty God brought about by self-pride and jealousy;
- ✓ Rebellion was the reason that Adam fell in the Garden of Eden
rebellion against the controlling and restricting Word of God that was meant to protect him, because Adam, like Lucifer, wanted man to be his own god and equal with God.
- ✓ Rebellion cost ABSALOM his life.
- ✓ Rebellion caused ACHAN to lose his family and his life.

✓ Rebellion is the reason that many people still lose out with God; because they refuse to allow the authority of God to control their lives and retain their right to do as they please.

✓ Sometimes that rebellion is not easy to recognize because Satan is such a great deceiver that we don't realize that we have disobeyed God until much time has past and we are trapped in our sinful condition.

✓ Application: How will you respond when an AUTHORITY in your life comes against what your will may desire?

WHOEVER YOU MAY BE, YOU ARE UNDER AUTHORITY

ILLUSTRATION: GOVERNOR HERTER

When Christian Archibald Herter, Governor of Massachusetts (1953-1957), was running hard for a second term in office. One day, after a busy morning chasing votes (and no lunch) he arrived at a church barbecue. It was late afternoon and Herter was famished.

As Herter moved down the serving line, he held out his plate to the woman serving chicken. She put a piece on his plate and turned to the next person in line.

"Excuse me," Governor Herter said, "do you mind if I have another piece of chicken?"

"Sorry," the woman told him. "I'm supposed to give one piece of chicken to each person."

"But I'm starved," the governor said.

"Sorry," the woman said again. "Only one to a customer."

Governor Herter was a modest and unassuming man, but he decided that this time he would throw a little weight around.

"Do you know who I am?" he said. "I am the governor of this state."

"Do you know who I am?" the woman said. "I'm the lady in charge of the chicken. Move along, mister."

Speak with the authority you are given by God.