

# The Question of Authority

Mark 1:21-34

## Jesus' Authority in Teaching

Capernaum is not mentioned in the Old Testament or the Apocrypha. It was situated on the western shore of the Lake, in “the land of Gennesaret” (Matt. 14:34; John 6:17, 24), and was of sufficient size to be always called “a city” (Matt. 9:1). It was a customs station (Matt. 9:9; Luke 5:27), and the quarters of a detachment of Roman soldiers (Matt. 8:8; Luke 7:1). It was the scene of many striking incidents in the Gospel History besides that here recorded. It was at Capernaum that the Lord healed Simon’s wife’s mother (Matt. 8:14); wrought the miracle on the centurion’s servant (Matt. 8:5); cured the paralytic (Matt. 9:2); called Levi from the toll-house (Matt. 9:9); taught His Apostles the lesson of humility from the child set in their midst (Mark 9:35–37), and I delivered the wonderful discourse respecting the “Bread of Life” (John 6:59).<sup>1</sup>

## Jesus' Authority in the Spirit Realm

## Jesus' Authority in Healing People

Peter and Andrew not only brought their friends James and John home with them from the service, but they also brought the Lord home. That is a good example for us to follow: don’t leave Jesus at the church—take Him home with you and let Him share your blessings and your burdens. What a privilege it was for Peter and his family to have the very Son of God as guest in their humble home. Before long, the Guest became the Host, just as one day the Passenger in Peter’s boat would become the Captain (Luke 5:1–11).<sup>2</sup>

## Jesus' Authority, The World, and Me

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<sup>1</sup> G. F. Maclear, [\*The Gospel According to St Mark\*](#), Cambridge Greek Testament for Schools and Colleges (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1892), 57–58.

<sup>2</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, [\*The Bible Exposition Commentary\*](#), vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 113.