



## Road Trip: On the Road with Jesus in Galilee

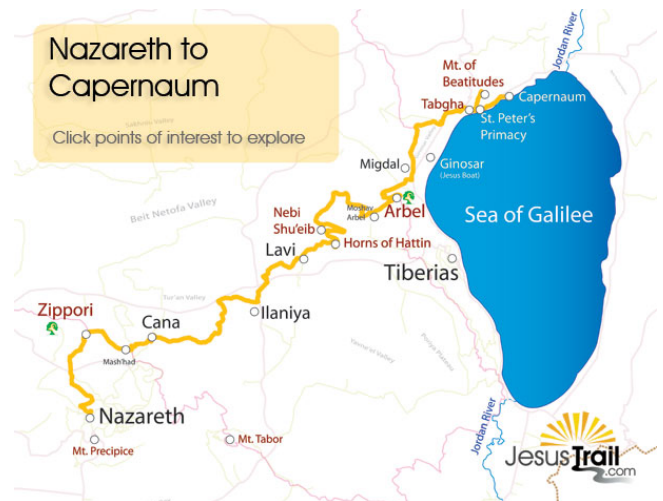
### Week 2: Jesus Heals a Man with an Unclean Spirit (4:31-37)

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus went to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and taught there in the synagogue every Sabbath day. <sup>32</sup> There, too, the people were amazed at his teaching, for he spoke with authority.

<sup>33</sup> Once when he was in the synagogue, a man possessed by a demon—an evil spirit—began shouting at Jesus, <sup>34</sup> “Go away! Why are you interfering with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

<sup>35</sup> Jesus cut him short. “Be quiet! Come out of the man,” he ordered. At that, the demon threw the man to the floor as the crowd watched; then it came out of him without hurting him further.

<sup>36</sup> Amazed, the people exclaimed, “What authority and power this man’s words possess! Even evil spirits obey him, and they flee at his command!” <sup>37</sup> The news about Jesus spread through every village in the entire region. (Luke 4:31–37 NLT-SE)



### - Walking in Authority

#### • What is “spiritual authority?”

- **True spiritual** (kingdom) **authority comes from abiding in the King** (Jesus). We have authority “in His name,” which implies that we have His authority when we are on a mission for Him. All Christians have a general assignment which gives us general authority in that area. There are also specific assignments that we are given individually or as groups which give us more specific authority in specific areas. The reality is that when you are sent out by Him to do His work, you will eventually stir up the evil one and you will need to deal with him.

- In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world. (John 17:18 MESSAGE)

- **Bill Johnson** uses a great example out of Matthew 8:

- <sup>18</sup> When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he instructed his disciples to cross to the other side of the lake... <sup>23</sup> Then Jesus got into the boat and started across the lake with his disciples. <sup>24</sup> Suddenly, a fierce storm struck

the lake, with waves breaking into the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. <sup>25</sup> The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!” <sup>26</sup> Jesus responded, “**Why are you afraid? You have so little faith!**” Then he got up and rebuked the wind and waves, and suddenly there was a great calm. <sup>27</sup> The disciples were amazed. “Who is this man?” they asked. “Even the winds and waves obey him!” (Matt 8:23–27 NLT-SE) (Matt 8:18 NLT-SE)

- Bill Johnson’s point is this... “**You only have authority over the storm you can sleep in.**” In other words, the place where you *have* peace is the place where you have the authority to *bring* peace.”
- When Jesus “rebuked” the storm, the chaos that was **outside** of him had to submit to the peace that was **inside** of him. His internal reality began to define the external reality!
- **When people observed Jesus operating in “great authority,” what were they actually seeing?**
  - **Freedom...** <sup>34</sup> Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin. <sup>35</sup> A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. <sup>36</sup> So **if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.** (John 8:34–36 NLT-SE)
  - **Love...** <sup>9</sup> “**I have loved you even as the Father has loved me.** Remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! <sup>12</sup> This is my commandment: **Love each other in the same way I have loved you.** (John 15:9–12 NLT-SE)
  - **Hope...** <sup>12</sup> We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, <sup>13</sup> while **we look forward with hope** to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. <sup>14</sup> **He gave his life to free us** from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, **totally committed to doing good deeds.** (Titus 2:12–14 NLT-SE)
- **We are to walk in the authority of Jesus.**
  - Those who live in the kingdom of God, those with renewed minds, are to live with the awareness that “**sometimes God wants to do something through you and not for you!**” This is when you realize that your beliefs are becoming your assignment. The truth about Christianity hits you square between the eyes... This is not just about you!
    - <sup>32</sup> “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. <sup>34</sup> It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, **each with his assigned task**, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. (Mark 13:32–34 NIV)
- **Demonization: Having an unclean spirit or being oppressed by one.**
  - **If you’re going to believe in angels, you’re going to have to believe in demons too.** Both are created beings. Both operate within spiritual structures and have spiritual agendas, assignments, and goals.
  - **Demonic possession?** Unfortunately, the word used to describe the level of influence of the demon of the man in the synagogue in Luke 4:33 was “possession.” Can a Christian be demon possessed? Can one who is possessed by Jesus at the same be possessed by Satan? One thing is for sure, **Satan is not able to possess the spirit of one who is possessed by Christ.**

- <sup>27</sup> My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, <sup>29</sup> for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. **No one can snatch them from the Father's hand.** (John 10:27–29 NLT-SE)
- **A better description would be “affliction.”** So then, to what degree is Satan able to afflict a believer? He is clearly able to attack the flesh, as he did with Paul, in the form of a “messenger of Satan” (2 Cor 12:7). Demons can afflict believers in terms of the physical aspects of the human person, as well as the mental, emotional, intellectual, and circumstantial aspects of their lives.
- **Jesus didn't speak to the demon, he responded to it.** When you are walking in authority, there is no need to direct your attention at the malevolent entity. In this example, the demon himself comes out of hiding, draws attention to itself and attempts to stir up fear the observers.
- **Activation: Walking in the power of God's love and the authority of Jesus**
  - The **power** of God's love is truly a force to be reckoned with! The **reality** of being “in Christ” is formidable!
    - In Christ Jesus you were **chosen by God** before creation... <sup>4</sup> Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. <sup>5</sup> God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. (Eph 1:4–5 NLT-SE)
    - In Christ Jesus you are **inseparably loved** by God... <sup>38</sup> And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. <sup>39</sup> No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 8:38–39 NLT-SE)
    - In Christ Jesus you were **redeemed and forgiven** of all your sins... <sup>9</sup> And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup> to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.” (Eph 1:9–10 NIV)
    - In Christ Jesus you have been **seated in the heavenly places**, even while living here on earth... For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. (Eph 2:6 NLT-SE)
    - In Christ Jesus **the life God promised you** is affirmed... All of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding “Yes!” (2 Cor 1:20 NLT-SE)
    - In Christ Jesus you are being **sanctified** and made **holy**... To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor 1:2 NIV)
    - In Christ Jesus the **peace of God** will guard your heart and mind... Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:7 NLT-SE)
    - **KEY TO SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY:** In Christ Jesus you are justified before God and the **righteousness of God** is imputed to you (authority)... God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor 5:21 NIV)