



- **The King who calls**

When I studied maths at University, there was this guy in all of my maths classes who was about 3 years younger than everyone else. He finished high school at age 15 and he was just really smart. He's one of those people who would go home on the first day of Uni and read the whole text book. And the next day, he would explain it to the lecturer.

This guy just understood things, ideas concepts. He just grasped it completely. And so if you had a question, he was the guy to talk to. And when he had something to say during lectures, everyone stopped and listened, including the lecturer.

This guy commanded attention. He was the authority in our year for everything about maths. People came to him. People listened to him. We were in awe of him.

People like that exist in our world. They command attention. They have an authority that is **unusual**. And this is what Jesus had. But much more. When Jesus spoke, people listened. Because he not only spoke with authority, but also with wisdom and knowledge and understanding. He spoke and people listened.

And as we read through the gospel of Luke, this is what we'll find Jesus doing again and again. He is speaking and people are listening because there is something different, something unique, about his authority.

In this first passage, chapter 4, he went to a place called Capernaum and was teaching people on the Sabbath day. Church day. And people were AMAZED at his teaching. They weren't just interested. They weren't just engaged. He wasn't just a good story teller. He didn't just have good illustrations. He taught with an authority like no one had ever seen. And that's where we need to focus now: Jesus' authority. This is what this passage is all about.

Jesus went into the Synagogue on the Sabbath and there's a man with an evil spirit. In the synagogue! This is where the Jews went to study the scriptures and to worship God. And there's a man there with an evil spirit! In the synagogue! On the Sabbath! It just leaves us with this impression that even in a place of worship, on the day of worship, there is Satan and his evil spirits. This is a world in conflict. This is a world where Satan has pushed into every corner of people's lives.

And listen to what this man with an evil spirit says to Jesus when he sees him:

- 34 *“Go away! 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!”*

Last week we heard about Jesus in the desert for 40 days, facing the temptations of Satan, and he overcame every temptation. But now he walks into the Synagogue and faces evil again. But there is no competition. Listen to what the evil spirit says:

Go away!

What do you want?

Have you come to destroy us?

I know who you are – the Holy One of God!

Remember in the desert, Satan wasn't afraid at all! He was challenging Jesus. Questioning his identity. Trying to convince him to give up his mission. But now, this evil spirit says to Jesus: Go away! You're going to destroy us, because you're the Holy One of God! This spirit knows who Jesus is. He knows his identity. He knows his power. And he is afraid.

And Jesus says to the evil spirit – “Be quiet! Get out.”

And the evil spirit leaves the man. And every one is amazed. Not only does Jesus teach with authority. He ACTS with authority. And when he does, people's lives are changed. That man who had the evil spirit – his life is changed BY THE AUTHORITY of Jesus. Jesus has an authority which impacts lives.

So then we move to Luke 5, and Jesus is standing by the lake of Gennesaret and people are **crowding** around him to hear the Word of God that he's teaching. It's **so crowded**, because he's such an amazing teacher, that he steps into a boat and goes off shore a bit to teach people from the boat.

So everyone is listening to Jesus. He speaks with authority. But at this stage, people don't quite understand who he is. The evil spirits do. But the people don't. They don't understand that Jesus is God himself on earth. So they listen to him, but they don't recognize him completely at this point in time.

And after teaching from the boat for a while, Jesus then tells the fishermen in the boat to go out to deep water and let down the nets.

The fisherman's name was Simon. He says to Jesus: “OK. We've worked hard and caught nothing all night, but OK. This is how impressed Simon was with Jesus. NO fisherman is going to put down nets again after fishing ALL night and catching nothing. Except Jesus is so impressive, this fisherman listens to him.

They go out and let down the nets and there are so many fish that the nets begin to break. They even call another boat over to help them pull in the huge catch.

Jesus has taught with authority. But now he reveals a even more of his authority. He knows where the fish are! No. Much more than that. Jesus has power over fish. Power over nature. And Simon realizes this. And so we have this great response in verse 8:

- *“he fell at Jesus’ knees and said: “Go away from me, Lord, I am a sinful man!”*

Simon later becomes known as the leader of the disciples called Peter. Simon **sees** Jesus. He sees that Jesus is from God. He sees that this is a righteous man. And he says: I don’t belong in your presence. Go away from me, Lord.” It’s similar to what the evil spirit said to Jesus – Go away! Because they both have recognised who Jesus is. But Jesus responds differently to Simon.

Verse 10:

- *“Don’t be afraid. From now on you will catch men.” So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.*

Here is Jesus, teaching God’s Word with authority. Then he shows his authority over nature. And now he shows his authority over peoples lives. These men leave their whole life behind to follow him. I wonder if you can catch the significance of that action of Simon and James and John. They pulled up their boats, and left everything.

Everything.

This is what the gospel of Luke is about. There is no half measure in following Jesus. It’s everything or nothing.

First he shows himself as a teacher with authority.

Then he shows his authority over evil spirits.

Then he shows his authority over nature.

Then He shows his authority over people’s lives – that they would leave everything to follow him.

The response to Jesus, again and again, is

- **ALL or NOTHING.**

So how do we respond?

Jesus has complete authority. Over Satan. Over nature. Over people. And he’ll show even more authority in the next chapters. But what he wants is US. Jesus wants people to leave EVERYTHING and follow him. He wants to be King in our lives.

Do you know, not a day goes by when we can say that we've been in control. Not one day. We can never get to the end of a day and say: "I was completely in control today!" Because we never are.

We live in a chaotic world. It's a world that is beyond our control. You can't control bank interest rates. You can't control sickness in your life. We surround ourselves with doctors and insurance policies and police and plan As and plan Bs. We TRY to limit the chaos. We plan all we can. But the world is, in reality, not under our control.

Because the world does not belong to us.

What we see in these chapters is Jesus stepping into the world as a human. In flesh. But he comes as the creator of the world. He steps into HIS world. And he confronts Satan – the one who is trying to claim the world for his own. And he confronts Satan and he says "No! This world is not yours!"

He faces an evil spirit and he says "Be quiet. Get out. This world is mine."
We're going to see again and again throughout the gospel of Luke that **Jesus is making his claim on his world.**

Jesus walks in and says: "In the middle of your uncontrollable lives, in the middle of this chaotic world, I want to claim authority! I want to be the authority over your WHOLE life. EVERYTHING! Your family, your work, your money, your time. I want you to leave everything and follow me. I want to be number one in your life.

ALL or NOTHING.

Either we accept the Kingship of Jesus over ALL parts of our life, or he is King over NOTHING in our life. There is no in between.

- **What does it mean for YOU to leave everything and follow Jesus?**

Ask yourself:

What does it mean for me to allow Jesus to have complete authority in my life?

What do I need to let go of to follow Jesus completely?

What is stopping me from giving my whole heart to him?

What do I need to love less, in order to love him more?

What in my life needs to become *less*, so that he might be made *more*?

What needs to change?

It's a new year. 2018. What needs to change **for you**?

(Pray)

Sermon Outline:

Authority

Over evil

34“Go away! 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!” (4:34)

Over nature

they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. (5:6)

Over people

“he fell at Jesus’ knees and said: “Go away from me, Lord, I am a sinful man!” (5:8)

“Don’t be afraid. From now on you will catch men.” So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. (5:10)

All or nothing

What does it mean for YOU to leave everything and follow Jesus?

Luke 4:31-37

31Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath he taught the people. 32They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority.

33In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, 34“Go away! 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!” 35 “Be quiet!” Jesus said sternly. “Come out of him!” Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him.

36All the people were amazed and said to each other, “What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!” 37And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area.

Luke 5:1-11

1One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret,^{5:1} That is, the Sea of Galilee the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. 2He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. 4When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

5Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

6When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

8When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” 9For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.”¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.