

Day 7

***And ... he entered the synagogue and was teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. And... there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy one of God." But Jesus rebuked him ... And they were all amazed... saying. "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."*1.21-28**

Satan's greatest and most effective weapon is to deceive people into thinking that Jesus was less than *the Holy One* or *Son of God*.

Many will admit that Jesus was a fine man and an exemplar, yet take offence at his claim to be the only way to God (John 14.6). Yet that is what he is; it's the truth and Satan knows it.



How symbolic is it that Mark records that there was a man with a demon in *their* synagogue, i.e. the synagogue of the scribes? The strongest opposition to Jesus came from religious men, experts in God's word. The battle shaped up as one between his authority and theirs.

Jesus isn't simply the greatest man or the greatest prophet who ever walked the earth. He is the Son of God and as such has an authority no other human being ever has had or ever will have. His unique authority, an authority that came from the throne of God himself, was what first struck his hearers - friend and foe, human and demonic alike (cf. 11.27-33).

? How does Jesus continue to exercise his authority in the world today? Consciously reflect on what it means for you to be under Jesus' authority.



Lord Jesus Christ, you are my Lord and Saviour. I humbly and gladly submit my whole being to your authority. Keep me from submitting to any other than that ordained by you. I pray it in the power of your name. Amen.