Introduction

What is it that gives a leader authority?

- Position or Title
- Knowledge
- Personal Charisma
- Character

The greatest example of authority in leadership is Jesus.


Capernaum was a small fishing and farming village on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. (Include pictures of the synagogue ruins in Capernaum, the foundation of the synagogue and Peter’s house.)

When Jesus taught in the synagogue the people were amazed.

His words had power and authority.

What is it that gives our preaching and witnessing power and authority?

It is the Word of God!


In the synagogue, there was a man possessed by a demon, an evil spirit.

Demons are supernatural beings, fallen angels who rebelled against God with Satan.

What is shocking here is that this demon possessed man was in the synagogue.

The demon cries out, “I know who you are, the Holy One of God!”

It is an example of what James means when he says, “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that and shudder.” James 2:19

Saving faith is more than just believing or knowing that God exists. It calls for repentance and obedience.

Jesus silenced the demon and commanded him to come out. For a second time, the people were amazed.
Does it still happen today?
Was the spiritual battle more intense in Jesus’ ministry?
How do we resist Satan?

“Submit yourselves then to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” James 4:7

Simon’s mother-in-law was sick with a high fever. Jesus rebukes the fever and it is gone.
Luke the physician distinguishes between demonic possession and illness.
That night, when the Sabbath was over, the people brought to Jesus all who were sick and he healed them.
Many demons came out and shouted, “You are the Son of God.” But Jesus silenced them.
Early the next morning Jesus went out to a solitary place to pray.
If it was important for Jesus to spend time with his Father, it is especially important for us.
Does God still heal?
What was Jesus’ mission?
He came to preach the good news of the kingdom.

Conclusion
There is no one like Jesus.
Jesus has been given “all authority in heaven and on earth.” Matthew 28:18
Jesus is still at work in our world through his church.