

One of the biggest problems I have with you people (I've told you this) is: you don't listen, you've a hard time paying attention. Just like the people Moses spoke to, like the people Jesus spoke to, in our readings. God's people have been told of the Christ throughout the OT. People with Jesus should know who He is. Some do, but most aren't quite sure, don't seem to know, throughout the Gospel, they should. Even outcasts, foreigners know, even demons know.

Deuteronomy there, book of sermons. Sermons preached by Moses just before entering the land God promised them. God had seen them thru 400 years of slavery in Egypt, 40 years wandering in the wilderness. And now they stood on the banks of the Jordan. Promised Land in sight, long-awaited "land of milk and honey"... they could *taste* it! Almost there! All they had to do was cross this river.

Before they do, Moses preaches to them. Reminds them of all they have been through. Of God's promises and faithfulness. God's mighty acts; the plagues, the Red Sea, the protecting and guiding pillars of cloud and fire, food and water miraculously provided, God's Word delivered at Sinai. He reminds them of their rebellion, stubbornness in sin.

Moses points them to the future; a *greater* future than what they're anticipating. God's going to raise up *another* prophet; greater than him. For a *greater* deliverance, with a *greater* Word, to a *greater* land. The work of God here, in the exodus, at the Jordan, is not the end, but only the prelude. *Just wait and see what God has in store next!*

Fast-forward to Capernaum. They've heard from Deuteronomy, that day, perhaps the words we heard today. Because in response to this Word of God, Jesus' teaching it, immediately a demon confronts Jesus. Why? Demons know who Jesus is; know He is the fulfillment of Moses' prophecy!

Jesus rebuked him. *Epetimesen* -rebuke, that word used at Red Sea, destroys foes of God's people; Jesus uses *Epetimesen*, to stills the storm. Rebuke of divine power.

**Silence! Come out!** Authority, only of God. **People amazed at His authority, teaching.** Authority! Greek, *Εχουσια*, authority not of this world. Power over demons; to free captives, to forgive sins. Divine rebuking, divine authority to this broken creation, to evil, chaos, demons, storms, illness, death.

What God promised, delivered, epiphanied that day at Capernaum and... here at Risen Savior. The long-awaited greater prophet than Moses, even God Himself, with a greater word of the new Covenant of His death and resurrection, a greater exodus, from this wilderness of sin and death, to lead you out, to take you to the Promised Land of Heaven. He comes with full authority of God, for He is God.

*Εχουσια*- not a magical incantation, but the Word, His authority spoken. A 1979 movie, *The Exorcist*, based off true events in 1949, people took a 14 year

old demons-processed child to our Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; saw things that would scare the... well. I've spoken to a couple of Lutheran pastors who have done an exorcism, what they saw would scare the... well. Do not fear demons. They cannot harm you. Your baptized into His authority! Divine person with divine authority- epiphany to you.

The people with Moses, people with Jesus, and you, know, *the exodus is hard*. We listen to lies of demons, the world, and ourselves. The manna God provides, His blessings never tasty enough. God doesn't seem to live up to our expectations; we long for an easier way. A way where we never have to struggle. Demonic lies -always mixed with some truth; easily entice us, we seek our own good above others; worship ourselves; justify our sinful pleasures; find safety, security in our things; quick to forget God's faithfulness we doubt His goodness, authority to take care of your life.

Listen, pay attention. What happens then, happens here. Brings His authority to bear on your life. He journeys to the cross as a sacrifice so you can stand here in the divine service and hear him tell you, by His authority, you're forgiven. By His authority, His Sacraments poured out, it is what He says it is; does what He says it does.

All this is yours and so much more than you can comprehend, given you by His authority. What you so desperately need today. You are loved beyond measure, forgiven, declared to His saints.

And we rebellious, stubborn wanderers in the wilderness of this world of sin and death come to His altar hungry and thirsty; He provides immortal food and drink, to strengthen you in the journey, to forgive the sin that loads you down, give you eternal life in foretaste of the feast to come in the Promised land.

He never promised you it would be easy, for His is the way of the cross. But He has promised you all you need to make it through this life. Grace upon grace, filling you with His gifts. Promised His authority with you every step.

His exodus complete, given to you! The gates of Paradise are opened! All has been accomplished. His Authority! It is finished! All that is left for you now is to cross the river, thru death and the grave, to the life that is waiting you in Heaven. Do not fear this, for He has died for you, how then can you die?

A new, greater land waiting for you. He will deny you nothing for your good, until a time comes when your joy will be complete. What God is doing in you and thru you now is not the end, but only the prelude. *Just wait and see what God has in store next!*

Listen, pay attention to what is spoken, what has happened for you, what is happening now, what will happen tomorrow. No surprises. His authority permeates every aspect of your life bringing His forgiveness, His gifts. As with the people of Capernaum, do not lose the sense of being **amazed at His authority, teaching** of your Lord, what He does for you, even this morning.