

I GIVE YOU AUTHORITY

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Pastor Cynthia L. Hale

Mark 3:7-19

“I give you authority”

Last Tuesday a young man with a sick and twisted view of life took the lives of 32 students and faculty as well his own. Though he showed signs of danger, anger, possible depression, and mental illness, the reality is the actions of that man were demonic. 8 years ago two dark and demented young men walked into Columbine High School, shot and killed 14 students and 1 teacher at Columbine High School...demonic.

Every week police and others try to make sense of it all. We quickly label the person sick, angry, bitter and etc. But the spiritual answer is, it's demonic. The Bible makes clear in Ephesians 6:12 that we struggle not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world...

Satan likes to mess with our minds by planting seeds of doubt. He'll take an insensitive comment by a colleague or classmate and blow it all out of proportion. We have tried to label persons who have committed heinous crimes as sick and depraved, but demonic oppression and possession is real. After God created the world, Satan stepped in. Adam and Eve were made a little lower than God who made us ruler over the works of his hand. Ps 8. We were given authority at creation to rule and reign and have dominion in the earth realm. We were created to rule and we have authority.

It was a perfect world until Satan enticed Adam and Eve to question God and disobey his will. Satan took the number two spot in the universe and he became the ruler of the world. God wasn't caught off guard. He wasn't surprised by what happened. Satan can't do anything without asking God's permission. Though we do not understand why he lets such bad things happen to good people, God is in control of this world. We have to trust him through the pain, trust him through the tears, and trust Him when we cannot figure out why everything is going crazy in this world.

When Adam and all humanity in him failed, God already had a plan. Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth as a human being to restore us to our rightful place. As a human he retraced Adam's footsteps to the point of temptation. Heb 2:7

We were created to function in dependence to God. Things have not been right since our ancestors decided to disobey God. Phil 2:5-8 Jesus, though fully God, chose to function as a human in the earth. It was at the beginning of his ministry that Jesus was baptized. After that, Holy Ghost came upon him and he had power. The authority that he was operating in was not his own. John 5:19, John 6:30. Jesus was a man under authority. He also made clear that his authority was contingent on his intimacy with God. That's how he was able to heal the sick and raise the dead. That's how he was able to talk to demons and have them obey; with the power of God.

The Pharisees were plotting to kill him, prompted by the actions of Satan, of course. Sick and demon-possessed people came to him. The demons were a threat to his ministry. They threatened to expose him and tell who he was. There are perhaps some who deny the fact that demons exist. Jesus knew Satan well and he knew that Satan was real. You need to understand that the devil is real. The devil offers us what is already ours. The problem is, we don't know who we are. Offers that are too good to be true usually are. Jesus resisted the devil and you have to resist him. Jesus knew that the demons were real because he had seen them. He knew them and they knew who he was.

Jesus was at a critical time of his ministry he knew that he would need men and women to carry on the work he had begun. He spent all night on the mountain because he had a serious decision to make. He was calling men out of the crowd. He wanted to set them apart to enter into intimate relationship with him. He needed their commitment. He called them into ministry and they came. There was no hesitation or negotiation. They came immediately. Common men with an uncommon calling. He was calling them in to send them out and he gave them two things. He gave them an assignment and he gave them authority. The assignment was to change the world. The authority was to destroy demons.

Anytime you come to Christ, your life changes. You cannot think the same. Immediately you have been set apart. You have been given an assignment and authority. While the apostles walked with Jesus they operated in His authority. They didn't have an authority of their own. When Jesus was raised from the dead, he got up with all power in his hands. Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me therefore go...."Mat 28:18-19.

He promised he would send another comforter. He told them they would receive power when the Holy Ghost had come upon them. Dunamis (power) and Exousia (authority) Dunamis means power, might, strength or force. The power of God is ordinarily referred to as Dunamis. Dunamis is what Jesus gave his disciples in Luke 9:1, Acts 1:8. Every one of us has the power of God living in us. Exousia is the right to use the power. It is a personal right because of our position in Christ Jesus. Now that we are in Christ Jesus, spiritual authority is a part of who we are. The authority is already in you due to the presence of the Holy Ghost. You may not feel like it, but you are authoritative whether you are awake or asleep. The moment you gave your life to Jesus, His spirit came to live in you. The same kind of power that God used to raise Jesus from the dead.

We need to know who we are,. Unlike Satan, we bear the image of our God. We carry infinitely more power than Satan and all his demons. He has no power over you at all. We have a decision to make. We have to decide whether we are going to use this power or not. We are already in spiritual warfare. The enemy knows that you are on assignment. He knows that you are able to bind everything on earth that has been bound in heaven and loose everything that has been loosed in heaven.

We have authority to stop the hand of the devil. We have authority to speak to the demons in that person and tell them to come out. We're tipping around the devil when he ought to be tipping around us. Cho was a little boy who was bullied by others and not one person said anything to stop them so he got even. The two brothers at Columbine were disrespected by their classmates, and they got even. We hear people treating others mean and without respect we don't say a word. People have been known to watch others get killed on the street. The people with authority are not the police, or the governor, or the military. The people of with the authority are the people of God and we are all guilty.

We have to take our authority.

Peace.

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Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale, Senior Pastor