

Jesus Changes Everything
Jesus Changed Religion: Authority & Power of Jesus ([Hebrews 12:18-24](#))
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JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING

1. Illustration of the lighthouse.

The captain of a ship looked into the dark night and saw a light in the distance. Immediately he told his signalman to send a message, "Alter your course ten degrees south." He promptly received a reply, "Alter your course ten degrees north." The furious captain sent another message, "Alter your course ten degrees south. I am a captain!" Soon another reply was received, "Alter your course ten degrees north. I am third class seaman Jones." The captain sent a final message, "Alter your course ten degrees south. I am a battleship." The reply was, "Alter your course ten degrees north. I am a lighthouse."

JESUS CHANGES AUTHORITY AND POWER

2. What is authority? It is the ability to influence or to command thoughts or opinion or behavior, it's the right to rule or the right or privilege to act in a certain way. We bump into the issue of authority every single day. What does the New Testament teach us about authority? BSU experience. Paul says in Romans 13:1, *"Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God"*.

3. Jewish History of Authority

Hebrews 12:18-24 - *You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death." The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear." But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the Abel.*

Moses, Joshua, David - Men acted under God's authority but Jesus was the agent that changed history.

4. Incarnation

- a. John 2:13-19 - Temple - *"When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep*

and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

- b. *Luke 8:22-25 - Sea of Galilee - One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger. The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."*
- c. *Luke 4:31-36 - Demoniac - Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath he taught the people. They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority. In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, "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!" "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. All 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!"*
- d. *Matthew 21:23-27 - Temple Teaching - Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you this authority?" Jesus replied, "I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. John's baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?" They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin'—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We don't know." Then he said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."*

JESUS' AUTHORITY WAS EXPRESSED IN HIS TEACHING

What is the authority of Jesus? We see throughout his ministry remarkable displays of authority. Take His teaching in the temple. Jesus was there in the temple area teaching.

But whenever Jesus taught, the initial reaction of people who heard him said, "No one ever taught like this man." It's funny because these same enemies, finally they had decided the time had come to arrest Jesus. And so they sent the temple police to go arrest him. You remember this story. And the temple police go and they don't see a good moment, and so they just stand

and listen to Jesus teaching for a moment. Bad mistake, at least in terms of their mission. Because they're listening and they're just overwhelmed by his teaching. They're in awe. And so, they go back to the ones who sent them and they are asked, "Where is Jesus?" And they said, "No man ever taught like this man." And so in Jesus' teaching there was always this sense of the authority of God in his words.

Take the Sermon on the Mount as an example, the crowd's reaction in Matthew captures it. In Matthew 7:28-29, *"When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at His teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority and not as their teachers of the law." And he had authority over life and death. He had the authority to stand in front of Lazarus' tomb after four days, and command him to come out, and life came into him and he came out. You remember the story when they brought the man who was paralyzed and they couldn't get to him so they dug a hole in the roof and lowered it down in front of Jesus. And Jesus, seeing their faith, says in front of them all, says to this man, "Your sins are forgiven." And they say in their hearts, "This man is blaspheming. Who can forgive sins but God alone?"*

ONLY JESUS CAN FORGIVE SINS!

Jesus alone can forgive sins. Who do we need to turn to for the forgiveness of sins? JESUS!