

Non-commissioned officers in the military are required to take Leadership Training. There were two sentences that, even after 10 years, continue to stand out in that training. The first is that a good leader is a good follower, and the second is that if you have to use your rank to get your point across, then you've already lost control of the situation.

In today's Gospel, we hear the word "authority" used twice in referring to Jesus. The first time, in speaking about how he taught – that is, with authority; and the second in how he dealt with the unclean demon.

In teaching with authority, Jesus does not come out and say "Hey, look at me, I'm the Son of God." Instead, he speaks of God as an insider.

Jesus says, elsewhere in Scripture, "The Father and I are one." and "I have come to do the will of Him who sent me." That is, Jesus doesn't act on his own. Rather, all of his actions are in union with the Will of his Father, the One who has sent Jesus into the world.

St. Paul breaks this out for us as well when he speaks of the Spirit of God and spiritual people and spiritual things.

- (1) Only the Spirit of God truly knows God,
- (2) We have received the Spirit of God
- (3) We speak about God as taught by the Spirit of God

Jesus, as the Second person of the Trinity, has an inside view of the life of the Trinity. When he speaks of the things of God, he is speaking in the Spirit of God.

And, too, when Jesus deals with fallen things, the things that are not in union with God, he maintains control over the situation, that is the exorcism of the unclean demon, because of his relationship to the Father.

But what about us?

By virtue of our baptism, we are called to share in the very life of the Trinity. Our prayer life, our daily life, our actions all should draw us deeper into this life of God. This life of God is expressed in Grace. And Grace comes to us from God the Father, through Jesus Christ, the Son, all in the person of the Holy Spirit.

This, in turn makes us 'insiders' to the life of the Trinity. And it is only as insiders that we can speak with any authority about the things of God.

So, let us pray that we may be good followers of Jesus Christ, so that when we are sent we may also be good teachers and leaders of the things entrusted to us in Jesus Christ. And, convicted of our positions as adopted sons and daughters of God in Christ Jesus, may we always know that God remains in control of all situations, so long as we remain in close relationship with God in Christ.