

In today's Gospel, we hear that Jesus "*spoke with authority*" and performed the miracle, healing the possessed man, "*with authority and power*".

When speaking of authority, it can be interpreted in one of two ways. There is authority associated with a "right" as in the authority exercised by someone in a particular office such as law enforcement or the legislature. This type of authority is assumed by someone - either legitimately or illegitimately ... depending on the circumstances.

Yet Jesus' authority doesn't derive from being appointed or elected. His authority is not assumed.

The second sort of authority is much deeper than a "right" and is instead based on "power."

The authority that comes from "power" is something more like the authority to speak as an expert ... or as an inventor. This sort of authority is based on experience and stems from a person's being.

When Jesus speaks about the Word of God - He has authority because He ... is ... the Word of God ... the Word made flesh.

When Jesus commands the forces of nature and drives out a demon from the possessed man ... He is able to do this because He is the Author of Creation ... He is the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity.

For ourselves, we too have authority in various ways based on our state in life and our vocations and avocations.

Authority that is assumed without reaching into who we are ... is not much authority at all.

Knowledge about Jesus Christ ... gives us one sort of authority. But truly knowing Jesus Christ in such a way that it alters the depths of who we are ... that type of knowledge ... produces among many effects ... an earth-shattering authority.

It is this sort of knowledge that St. Paul speaks of in the first reading - a deep, abiding knowledge that reaches into the depths of who we are and produces wisdom and power beyond the norm. This type of power comes from the Spirit of God ... this type of power changes everything.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us receive Him into the depths of our being ... so that we might truly know Christ and receive the power of His redeeming love ... in a way that transforms us ... who we are ... so that we might go forth ... and transform the world.