

WARMING UP

1. Can you think of a specific situation where you chafed at being under authority? What happened? Why is this rebellious streak so natural?

DIGGING IN

When you recognize the authority of God’s Word . . .

2. *It draws out worship (4:31-32) and even some fear (4:33-35).*
 - What does it mean that the people were “astonished” at Jesus’ teaching? To what extent did they understand what they were hearing? How can the same thing happen today when an unbeliever shows up at church?
 - The same word for worship can be translated as either “reverence” or “fear.” Where is the line between the two? An appropriate fear of God is rooted in what awareness about him and ourselves?
 - Pastor Todd said, “Our always-safe, kind-old-man view of God is keeping us from better worship.” Look up Daniel 7:9-10 and Revelation 19:11-16, and recapture some of the God-fearing nature of worship. What is your response?
3. *It causes a stir (4:36-37) because of the obvious results (4:38-39).*
 - How do “reports about [Jesus]” and his ongoing work in people’s lives still cause a stir today? Have you paused recently to marvel at God’s activity in your own life? What has he done that amazes you?
 - We see fewer miraculous, on-the-spot healings now than in biblical times. What are the primary “miracles” that we see today? How are these an even greater healing?
4. *It creates personal implications (4:40-41) and a deep desire for more (4:42-44).*
 - Pastor Todd said, “The demons’ problem wasn’t (and isn’t) knowledge but authority.” How does information about God not always lead to submission to God? Why is there often this gap in our lives?
 - When we say that we want “more of Jesus,” we are simultaneously saying—whether we realize it or not—that we want “less of us.” Are you willing to make this tradeoff? How so?

BREAKING OUT

5. God’s Word—both written (Scripture) and living (Saviour)—speaks with authority and power. Where are you failing to submit to this authority in your life? Why are you holding out? How can your small group help you surrender fully?