

Centered in Jesus

Jesus' Authority and Power

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Luke 4: 31-37

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Introduction: In Ephesians 2:19 the apostle Paul writes: "...you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone; in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God." (NRSV) As we begin a new calendar year and a new era at UPC it is time to ask ourselves the question "What does it mean to live my life with Christ at the center?" In this series, we will look into scripture for pictures of what that looked like for the people of Jesus' time and the early church. The clues we find will help us construct an actionable answer to this question so that we can take stock of where we are and take steps to make Jesus the center of our lives.

Review: How can we as a church guard against rejecting Jesus?

Read: Luke 4: 31-37

Prayer: Father, we are amazed when we read about the divine power of Jesus in this text. Amen

Discussion:

1. What was the reason that the people were amazed at the teaching of Jesus? How would you describe "authority" in Jesus's message?
2. How did the demon address Jesus? What was the reason for his fear? Was this fear realistic?
3. Describe the interaction between Jesus and the demon. What was the result?
4. In v36, what does the word "teaching" mean? More than just an oral message? How do you think the news about Jesus spread?

Application: This week be amazed at all Jesus continues to do.

Prayer: Father, thank you for this reminder that the word amazing is so true for Jesus. Amen.