

## Spiritual Authority

### Mark 1:21-35

*One of the signs of spiritual authority in a particular life or ministry is its \_\_\_\_\_; the Spirit of Creator God does not need to copy other successful ministries in order to change lives effectively.*

**Discussion 1. Thinking about trying to mimic someone else's successful ministry: can you think of examples where that has worked well? Can you think of examples where it has NOT worked well? Where would you draw the line between learning from others' good examples and trying to recreate their success by copying them?**

*Another sign of spiritual authority is that it is present both in \_\_\_\_\_ and in \_\_\_\_\_. If my charisma and appeal is only there in public, but not at home, then it is not spiritual authority. It is just me trying to be relevant.*

**Discussion 2. Why does a failure in a spiritual leader's personal life (or home life) often have such a devastating effect on his/her public ministry?**

*Spiritual authority comes with its own marketing plan. People are naturally \_\_\_\_\_. If I have to convince people of my spiritual authority, then I probably do not have it.*

**Discussion 3. If spiritual authority draws its own crowd, does that mean every big church or popular Christian has spiritual authority? How do you discern the difference? In your own ministry (or church), how do you resolve the tension between "best practices" in marketing/promotion and allowing God to do His own marketing?**

*Spiritual authority is a by-product of the gradual, steady spiritual transformation process in every Christ follower. The more time spent in honest, \_\_\_\_\_ with the Father, the more our words and actions are marked with spiritual authority.*

**Discussion 4. What is your existing routine in terms of prayer and Bible study? What next steps do you feel God pressing you towards in terms of this routine?**

**Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?**