<u>4th Sunday – Ordinary Time – Year B</u>

1. What's your favorite game? Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, etc.
   - There's one thing all games have in common – rules –
     I remember playing baseball we would pick teams one way –
              then I moved & they used a different way   Who changed the rule?

   - Who makes up the rules for all the games we play?
     <u>Usually the person who created the game</u>
     - LISTEN - God created – and He has given us a rule book – The Bible

2. In today's Gospel Jesus goes to the Synagogue and the people are amazed – not once, but TWICE
           1st time – it was what He said – He spoke with authority & <u>they were ASTONISHED</u>
           2nd time – it was what He did – He cast out demons & <u>they were AMAZED</u>
                   He didn't speak like a regular teacher
                   He didn't speak like someone who knew *about* the rules
                   He spoke like someone who *wrote* the rules – <u>HE DID</u>

   - ***It wasn't His words*** that kicked out the evil spirits – ***it was who spoke the words***
   - How does this relate to us?

3. All of us would like <u>what we say</u> to have that kind of authority
   - WHAT WE SAY ONLY HAS AUTHORITY IF ITS BACKED UP BY WHAT WE DO
   - HOW WE LIVE MAKES A DIFFERENCE **(and that's hard)**
     Whenever I do baptisms I tell the parents and god-parents that their children will be watching them
     They see how we act and what we do and learn that THATS how they should act

4. We are called to live by God's rule book and when we do – we battle evil in the world
   - To win that battle – we must live our faith, we must practice what we preach.

     HOW?
     1. Stay close to Jesus
     2. Stay close to the truth <u>(read the rule book)</u>
     3. Stay close to others that are fighting the fight
        <u>Every Christian is a Spiritual Warrior in the midst of the battle</u> – *let's have each other's back*

   - For us to speak with AUTHORITY we need to know **authority brings responsibility**
   - We <u>can</u> claim authority – we really can
   - But the responsibility that comes with that authority means we have to live our faith
     - We can do that because **its not just what we say** – **its who we are**   CHRISTIANS