

4th Sunday – Ordinary Time – Year B

1. Next weekend is the Super Bowl – go Patriots
 - All games like football have rules – Super Bowl team with most penalties will probably lose
 - Life has rules too – if we are good – our community benefits and we profit
If we are bad – you go to Fox Hill and our community suffers
 - Rules are made for games to make the game more enjoyable
 - Rules are made for life so that life can be more enjoyable
 - When God created life – He gave 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
 - 2nd time – it was what He did – He cast out demons
 - 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 – HE DID
3. Jesus spoke with Authority – not like Scribes and Pharisee
 - **He didn't just speak the truth, He was the truth**
 - It wasn't His words that kicked out the evil spirits – **it was who spoke the words**
 - How does this relate to us?
4. All of us would like what we say to have that kind of authority
 - But who we are, how we live gets in the way
 - Parents want children to be kind – **but Mom and Dad fight**, can be cruel – leaves a message
 - People say they are Christians – but **never coming to worship gives a message.**
 - WHAT WE SAY ONLY HAS AUTHORITY IF ITS BACKED UP BY WHO WE ARE
 - HOW WE LIVE MAKES A DIFFERENCE
5. 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.
 - For us to speak with AUTHORITY we need to know **authority brings responsibility**
 - We *can* claim authority – we really can
 - But we need to know **its not just what we say – its who we are**

CHRISTIANS