

**Who is this?**

**This question of those listening to Jesus is critical**

**And it is critical for us as well**

**Who is this?**

**Who is Jesus to me?**

**The people knew who Moses was**

**He was the leader of their ancestors**

**One who communicated directly with God**

**He spoke with God**

**And he spoke for God**

**He became their mediator with God**

**When on Mt Horeb, their ancestors heard the voice of God**

**They were frightened**

**And told Moses**

***If we hear the voice of God again***

***We shall perish***

***You speak with Him***

***We will listen to you***

**Moses was the one who received the Law from God**

**He passed this on to the Israelites**

**Their Levitical priests received their authority from Moses**

**The law was passed down from generation to generation**

**Rabbi to rabbi to rabbi**

**Tracing this backward to Moses**

**This was their authority**

**At the end of Moses' life**

**God made another promise through him**

***A prophet like me will the Lord, your God,***

***Raise up for you from among your kin***

***To him shall you listen***

**Other prophets would come and go after Moses**

**Some false prophets**

**Some true prophets**

**But the only way to know for sure would be to see if their  
prophecies came about**

**Until Christ arrives**

**He is the true prophet foretold by Moses**

**But more than a prophet**

**He is the second person of the Trinity**

**All Christ spoke was given God's seal of approval in his resurrection**

**The fact that he died**

**Was laid in the tomb for 3 days**

**And rose from the dead**

**This is proof that all he taught was true**

**The things that make us feel good about ourselves**

**And the things that challenge who we are**

**What we believe**

**How we live our faith**

**Our Gospel today reflects that he is the one they were expecting**

**Jesus comes into the temple**

**He took his turn at reading the scripture**

**Teaching from scripture**

**But Jesus is not like the others**

**They would have mostly been Levites**

**It would have been known who their teachers would have been**

**That would have established their authority**

**But Jesus had no outside authority**

**He taught on his own authority**

**None of what he taught would ever contradict what Moses taught**

**But it did not come from Moses**

**Then this man comes forward**

***We know who you are***

**This man speaks in the plural**

**Because he is possessed by an evil spirit**

**The one who divides and spreads discord**

***Have you come to destroy us?***

**The spirit knows a confrontation is at hand**  
**The battle that would culminate with the cross of Christ has begun**  
**Christ shows his authority over even unclean spirits**  
**He commands that the spirit be quiet**  
**And to come out of the man**  
**In doing this, Jesus is confirming that he has authority in himself**  
**It is not dependent on any other person or teacher**  
**His identity as Son of God will come**  
**For today, it is about his authority to do what he does**  
**To teach as he teaches**  
**In our lives, we have a more holistic approach to Christ**  
**We accept who he is**  
**And we accept his authority**  
**For those that were with him**  
**These things came bit by bit**  
**And it never hurts us to look at these individually as well**  
**We need to know who he is**  
**Who we are**  
**And what is our relationship to him?**  
**And as our understanding grows**  
**Are we willing to change?**  
**Are we willing to enter into the conversion we are called to?**

**If we take a deep look at our lives**

**We see that we are caught up in dysfunction and sin**

**Addictions and attachments to this world**

**As individuals**

**As a local community**

**Our world**

**A struggle between good and evil**

**Good intentions and what we actually do**

**The struggle of human mortality and failure**

**And the desire for immortality and success**

**And we often realize that when it is up to me**

**The finite, fallen person often has the upper hand**

**The good, the infinite gets the upper hand only when we cooperate:**

**When we heed the invitation of God**

**In humility, entering into the conversion he desires for us**

**To do this, we need to know who to turn to**

**How often do we listen to the words of a politician?**

**Thinking this message or that sounds good**

**Only to find that it fails**

**What do we do when we hear from a doctor:**

**Nothing more can be done**

**How do we react when we hear another priest has failed in his call?**

**Another child has been abused**

**Who do we turn to?**

**When chaos reigns**

**We need to listen for the voice of Christ**

***Be quiet! Come out!***

**This is not a human authority**

**Not something the Rabbi's had**

**Not something the scribes or Pharisees had**

**In our Gospel, the demons know who Christ is**

**They know his authority**

**The people do not yet grasp this**

**He is the prophet described by Moses**

**He has the authority of God**

**Yet again and again he finds himself in conflict**

**Especially with the scribes and Pharisees**

**They had their own preconceived expectations**

**Their own ideas of who the Messiah would be**

**How he would act**

**Who he would be attentive to**

**And Jesus did not meet their expectations**

**So they demand Jesus change**

***If you are the Son of God***

*Come down from that cross*

*And we will believe in you*

**Rather than enter into a conversion themselves**

**When we hear and heed the voice of Christ in our midst**

**When we enter into our conversion**

**We are freed from the voices that have hold of us**

**We can be liberated from harmful lifestyles**

**From addictions and attachments**

**From a lust for power, hate and greed**

**From a desire to be in control and to control others**

**To have things always my way**

**Listen to the Word that has authority**

**The Word of God in Sacred Scripture**

**In the Sacraments**

**The Word of forgiveness and mercy**

**Listening to his Word**

**Entering into the conversion he is calling us to**

**In humility, we hear, surrender and obey**

**So we can live less divided lives**

**He has not come to destroy us**

*He has come so that we might have life*

*And have it more abundantly*