

DO IT FOR A DAY

DAY 19 – EXERCISE YOUR AUTHORITY

*“When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Silence! Be still!”
—Mark 4:39, NLT”*

On October 14, 1947, a B-29 bomber took off from a runway in southern California. Attached to the bottom of the bomber was a much smaller aircraft, the Bell X-1. There was a common assumption in the aviation world that the speed of sound, Mach-1, was an insurmountable barrier. But like all records, they were made to be broken.

From about twenty-five thousand feet (7.6 km), the B-29 released the Bell X-1. It started its engines, climbed to about forty-three thousand feet (13 km) and accelerated to five hundred, six hundred, seven hundred miles per hour (about 804,965 and 1,126 km/h respectively). In the Mach .965, the dash control panels went haywire. At Mach .995, the G-force blurred Chuck Yeager’s vision and his stomach clenched. Just when he felt the ship was going to implode, there was a sonic boom.

Going 761 miles per hour (1,224 km/h), the Bell-X broke the sound barrier, and the air pressure that had been pounding the front end spilled over to the rear.

It was as if the perfect storm had turned into the perfect calm, utterly still, utterly silent. Why? Because at supersonic speeds the plane was traveling faster than the sound waves it produced.

In the gospels there is a story about Jesus crossing the Sea of Galilee with the disciples. He was actually taking a nap, which I love..

While Jesus was sleeping, a furious storm blew up, rocking his boat, somewhat similar to the headwind the Bell-X experienced. This kind of storm was not unusual. The Sea of Galilee. Such topography made the Sea of Galilee susceptible to sudden and very violent storms.

Do you remember what happened next? The disciples, some of whom were professional fishermen, were terrified and went to wake up Jesus saying: **Teacher! —they shouted** “Don’t you mind if we drown?”

Now let me change the script. What did Jesus do when they woke him up? Did you panic? Started salvaging the boat? Did you grab an oar and start rowing? No no and no! Nothing of that. Jesus stood up.

Who rebukes the wind?

Who speaks to the sea?

I'll tell you who: the one who created them. He exerted his spiritual activity on the physical elements in the same way that he turned water into wine, in the same way that he cursed the barren fig tree, in the same way that he called Lazarus out of the grave.³

I'm not sure what habit you're trying to create or break, but you must exercise your spiritual authority. How do you do it?

First, you have to keep the peace in the midst of the storm. You have to be calm and move on. You have to keep yourself anxiety free. And how do you do it?

Interrupting the anxiety impulse with a prayer pattern. To keep the peace is to keep the space, it is to be fully present. It's embracing the tension of now but not yet. It is confronting the brutal facts with unwavering faith. **Second, you have to verbalize your peace!** I'm not sure what challenges you're facing, but you have to speak peace to your spouse. Speak peace to your children. Speak peace to your friends.”

“Speak peace to racial tension and political polarization. How do you do this? Operating in the opposite spirit.

As a follower of Christ, I am obligated to bring injustice to the fore. Caring for the marginalized is the Jesus Way. We lament with those who suffer injustice, but we do not play the victim, We exercise our authority as more than winners. We stand in the gap as peacemakers, grace givers and set the tone.

In 1913, Josiah Royce founded a community he called the Reconciliation Fraternity. Their goal was to become a loving community. That community would accept among its members Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,”

“Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who would sponsor the cause and deliver a vision for it. The purpose of the civil rights movement was not just civil rights; it was to establish a loving community where people were not judged by the color of their skin but rather by their character. The goal was to create a community whose love was so strong that it could transform opponents into friends. “It is this love,” said Dr. King, “that will work miracles in the hearts of men.”⁶

It is difficult to change individual habits, but it is more difficult to change cultural ones. “This will require a qualitative change in our soul, as well as a quantitative change in our life,” King said.⁷ **We have to take personal responsibility and put pride and prejudice at the altar.** We must sacrifice ourselves for the greater good and remain “indefensible.”

Most people live their lives at .965 Mach. The control panels are collapsed. The cockpit is out of control. Some live in .995 Mach. Blurry vision, knotted stomach. They feel like their marriage or mental health is going to implode at any moment, and yet they may be closer to victory than they think. Don't turn off the engine prematurely...

If you are to create or break a habit, you will have to exercise your authority. You will have to rebuke the waves and the wind. ”

At a certain point, you will have to stop talking to God about your problems and start talking to your problems about your God. You have to declare his power, his presence, his promises. **It is true, there are many things that you cannot control, but you can take the "responsibility".**

I have some advice for you: exercise your authority. **Doubt is allowing circumstances to come between you and God. Faith is allowing God to stand between you and your circumstances.**

HOW DO I MAKE IT A HABIT?

Shift the atmosphere.

On Good Friday 1963 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was jailed for a peaceful protest he conducted without permission. Receiving criticism for the timing and the tactic used, Dr. King wrote an open letter from his cell in Birmingham, Alabama:

There was a time when the church was very powerful: it was the time when the first Christians rejoiced at being considered worthy of suffering for what they believed. In those days the church was not merely a thermometer recording the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was a thermostat that transformed those in society.

Are you a thermometer or a thermostat? Are you regurgitating the news channels you watch and the social networks you follow? Or are you following the example of the scriptures? Are you conforming to the culture, or are you disrupting the pattern with faith, hope, and love?

As followers of Christ, we are called to reach the higher standard. We change the atmosphere by operating in the opposite spirit. This is how we exercise our authority!

We must represent the kingdom of God with such love, such joy, and such hope that it raises questions to which the gospel is the answer. And how is it done?

When we love our enemies, pray for those who persecute us, and bless those who curse us, it raises questions to which the gospel is the answer. When we turn the other cheek, go the extra mile, hand over the robe, questions arise to which the gospel is the answer.

We counter hate with love.

We counter pride with humility.

We counter the curse with blessing.

We counteract the lie with the truth.

We counter racism with reconciliation.

We counter the culture of rejection with grace and peace.

This is how we rebuke the wind and waves. And in doing so, questions are raised for which the gospel is the answer.

“You have more authority than you can imagine! You have authority to stop storms. You have authority to heal diseases. You have authority to move mountains. I eat? With mustard seeds of faith.

You are doing God no favors if you operate with less than your full authority. You are lessening the price that Jesus paid on the cross of Calvary. Stop living as if Jesus was still nailed to the cross. The enemy is defeated. It is time to start living that truth.

Exercise your authority!”

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