

'Tales of the unexpected!'

Mark 2 v1-12 – The Greek word for authority is 'Exousia' meaning 'Authority from Delegated Power'

There is more than one surprise in this story – the hole being cut in the roof and the man coming through it on a stretcher is just the beginning!

Where does Jesus get the authority to forgive a man's sins?
(And we know He has it because he proves it by instantly healing the paralysed man!)

Jesus uses the word 'exousia' to explain his power – it's the simple right he has to do these things because God has told him to! It's God's power. He is not acting from His own ability, but as God's 'sent one'. (Jesus *often* describes Himself as the 'sent one')

Jesus refers to His 'exousia' / authority in these instances:

Mark 2v10 – to forgive sin – and to heal.

Mark 1v22 – to teach.

Mark 1v27 – to command evil spirits to go.

John 10v18 – to lay down His life (as an offering to God) and receive it again.

John 17v2 – to give eternal life to all the Father gives Him.

But here's another (huge) surprise – He gives the SAME authority to those who believe Him!

John 1v12 – to become the children of God

Mark 3v15 – to heal sickness

Mark 6v7 – to command evil spirits to go

Luke 10v19 – to trample serpents and scorpions and ALL the power of the devil

In Jesus' last words, when He is about to return to heaven, after He has gained the final victory over death, the 'last enemy' (*Matthew 28v18*), He tells his disciples,

'ALL authority in heaven and earth is given to Me...so YOU GO!

-Make disciples,

-Baptise them,

-Teach them all I've told you, and....

-I AM WITH YOU!