

**Strange Thing Indeed!**  
**2 Kings 2: 23-25**

There are some weird stories in the Bible.

Our Scripture lesson today is strange and a little unsettling.

**Let's look at...**

- **The \_\_\_\_\_Story**
- **The \_\_\_\_\_**
- **The spiritual \_\_\_\_\_**

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**Message Application:**

Thomas H. Troeger, wrote this observation in *Sermon Sparks*, “There are many titles that historians of the future may give our era, but one that they are certain to consider is “The Age of Suspicion.” People are suspicious of political authorities because they have lied so often. People are suspicious of economic authorities because financial markets have collapsed. People are suspicious of religious authorities because they have failed to act swiftly against abuse in the church. People are suspicious of scientific authorities because the products resulting from their discoveries have in many cases devastated the environment.

Preachers feel the loss of authority. I recall a group of older pastors who began their ministries shortly after World War II. Their first congregations granted them significant authority from the day they arrived. But beginning with the mid-1960s, each time they moved to a new pastorate, congregations granted them less initial authority than earlier in their careers. They had to earn authority by proving trustworthy over time.”

Troeger is right. Authority today is not given without being proven trustworthy!

When it comes to the authority of the Christ-follower we need not worry. Let me clarify that I'm not talking about having authority that the believer wields like a sword. I'm talking about the authority that the believer places himself under. The sword the Christian wields is the same authority he or she allows in their lives, the Word of God, that is the Bible.

That authority is trustworthy. It is proven by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The only Messiah that was dead and now lives! The God/man that takes away our sin and gives us eternal, abundant life. This my friends you can take to the bank!

Our application this week calls for an honest assessment. How much, dear friends, are you allowing God's authority in your life. It is to that proportion of surrender that will sense God's authoritative love, peace and power in your life. The more you grasp for your own authority the more you will not know his authority. This week, pray a prayer of surrender. Give your habits, finances, time, health, fear, dreams and goals over to the care of Jesus. Then watch as his authority over you starts setting all things in the right order.

Tell next time,

Grace & Peace

Wm. Lyons