

ESTHER AND EMMETT - Jan 31

(There is a tall pile of books. The top of Emmett's hair can be seen protruding above the books)

Esther: Emmett...are you there?

Emmett: Hi Esther. I'm here (Emmett slides the books to the side so that we can see him).

Esther: There you are. Were you trying to hide?

Emmett: No, I was just getting ready in case anyone came along and asked me to teach them about God.

Esther: Why do you have all those books?

Emmett: Because when people see all these books they'll think I know a lot. They will think that I teach with authority!

Esther: With authority...

Emmett: Just like Jesus.

Esther: You've been reading the Bible haven't you?

Emmett: Yep.

Esther: You've been reading about Jesus teaching in the synagogue in the village of Capernaum, haven't you?

Emmett: I sure have!

Esther: And after Jesus had taught some of the people listening said that he taught...

Emmett: With authority! Wow! Just saying those words makes me feel smarter already!

Esther: So you think that saying someone teaches with authority means that that person is smart?

Emmett: Of course...what else could it mean...wait...oh no, this isn't one of those Jesus things is it, when just when you think you know what it means you discover that it could mean something else...is it?

Esther: Welllll...

Emmett: (sighs) Okay...so...Jesus taught like one with authority could also mean...

Esther: Well...let's say that I order something for pick-up at a store...

Emmett: They had store pickup in the Bible?

Esther: No...imagine that today I order something for pickup at a store, but I can't get to the store to pick it up so I ask you to pick it up for me...

Emmett: Of course I'd do that for you Esther. What am I picking up?

Esther: Nothing...I didn't actually order anything, BUT IF I HAD, and I asked you to pick it up for me, I would be giving you permission to pick up my item...I would have 'authorized' you to pick it up on my behalf. I would have given you the authority to pick it up on my behalf.

Emmett: I'd just go up to the counter and say "Esther sent me!"

Esther: Right...so when people thought that Jesus was speaking with authority it was because they thought that God had authorized him to say what he said.

Emmett: So Jesus could say, "God sent me!"

Esther: And Jesus also sent people.

Emmett: Really! Did Jesus send them to pick up something for him from the store?

Esther: No, Jesus was a teacher, and like all teachers he had students, who were called disciples.

Emmett: What did Jesus teach them?

Esther: Jesus taught them about God's love. He taught them to share God's love by caring about others, by sharing food with others, by respecting everyone and treating everyone like a friend, like someone that God loves.

Emmett: Wow! Sounds like he taught with authority! – I read that, you know!

Esther: And you know that Jesus invites all of us to be disciples, to learn about God's love and then to share God's love.

Emmett: So, if someone asks me to teach them about God, I don't need to show them my pile of books.

Esther: No, you just have to care about them and treat them like Jesus treated people.

Emmett: Like people loved by God!

Esther: Like people loved by God.

Emmett: I will treat them like they are loved by God...because Jesus sent me!

Esther: Jesus sends us to love all God's people. And to that, all God's people can say "Amen."

Emmett: Amen!