

# Authority 101

## People react to authority . . .

- Scared of it (some abuse it). Mt.24:49
- Seek it (to pursue own desires)
- Savor it (power hungry; rule others)
- Secure because of it

God's authority is misjudged  
by world...and by some 'Christians'

# I. What Is Authority?

# Authority:

- From word: *it is right, authorized, permitted, proper*
- Potential or resource to command, control, or govern, *capability, might power*
- Nelson's: power or right to do something, particularly to give orders and see that they are followed
  - Without it: chaos in government, family, society, workplace, church . . . [as Gn.3]

# Authority:

- Bible: emphasis on legality and right to do something
  - Est.9:29, Queen Esther...Mordecai
  - Jn.19:10-11, Pilate – authority from God, yet would crucify His Son

Pilate agrees: Jesus may ignore charges of Jews, but must submit to the power of the Roman governor

Pilate does not know he will stand before this Galilean carpenter, Judge of the world, to hear His sentence

# Bible itself is derived authority

- Superior to every other kind of authority: from God Himself
- Our reaction to Bible is our reaction to God. 2 Tim.3:16, all Scripture is given by inspiration of God...
- Gn.3, Eve: free will to choose God's way or her own
  - She could not choose consequences of her choice
  - “If you do that, you're telling me that you need a spanking”

# Jesus submitted to OT authority as His...

- Guide, Mt.4:1-10
  - Had to choose between satan's temptations and Scripture's teaching
  - "It is written..." Contrast Cain
- Final authority, Mt.22:15-46
  - 15:** Pharisees. 16-21, tribute to Caesar?
  - 29:** Sadducees. Deny resurrection, Ac.23:8
    - He exposes their ignorance of <sup>1</sup>God's word and <sup>2</sup>God's power

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- Final authority, Mt.22:15-46
  - 34f.:** Lawyer. take a turn: *the greatest commandment*. Two hooks...
    - Mk.12:34
  - 41:** Jesus. **42:** ‘son of David’
    - **43:** David...in Spirit... “Lord” – Ps.110:1
    - **44-46:** Jews wrong again



I. What Is Authority?

II. Word Pictures of Authority

**Mt.7:24-27**, both hear; wise profit  
(standard of Judgment)

- **Mt.7:28**, astonished at His sayings (words) and His teaching – usual way to determine one's authority
  1. **Astonished / Amazed** at His teaching.  
Mt.13:54.
  2. Miracles alone would not inform people about God and their soul. Words are required.

## Mt.7:29, He taught with authority

1. Includes matter and manner
2. “Not as scribes” (*Lord is dogmatic*)
3. Scribes quote mere men / dead men;  
rabbis disagreed with each other

“The most notable effect of the preceding sermon on the people who heard it, was the astonishment produced by a single feature of it, the authority with which Jesus taught. The authority assumed was absolute – the authority which belongs to God alone. It was not that of the scribes, who spake by the authority of Moses; nor that of Moses himself, whose expression was, ‘thus saith the Lord’; but it was authority inherent in himself, enabling him to say, even when adding to the law of God itself, ‘I say unto you.’ Well might this astonish a people who, though they had learned to respect his goodness of character, were not yet believers in his divinity” – McGarvey, Mt.-Mk., 74

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**Mt.8:5-9**, under authority...

- Soldiers understood authority
- Centurion knew Lord's authority was from God – highest authority

**Mt.9:1-8**, know...Son of Man...power on earth...forgive sins

- Anyone can say it . . .

**Mt.10:1**, delegated miraculous power to disciples . . . power over unclean spirits, sickness, all diseases

## Mt.21:23-27, “authority” (4x)

- 1) Area: temple, house of God . . .
- 2) Attack: ‘these things’? [king; profits; heresy]
- 3) Aim: embarrass Him before students
- 4) Authority: “Who do you think you are?”
- 5) Admission: “We do not know”

## Lk.12:5, a reason to be certain

- Pilate: *make it as secure as you know how*, Mt.27:65
- Lk.1:4, that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed
  - “Certainty” – stability of idea or statement...



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III. What Does This Mean to Me?

1. *Ultimate authority belongs to God as our Creator and Redeemer*
2. *Jesus possesses authority in Himself.  
Mt.5:32-34...*
3. *Lord's apostles were inspired with divine authority to speak for Christ, 2 Co.10:8*
4. *Divine authority is found in biblical revelation,  
1 Co.14:37*
5. *Our eternal destiny is decided by way we treat His word, Jn.12:48*
6. *Lord's church is saved by heeding His authority, 2 Pt.2:10*