

Jesus and Authority

INTRODUCTION: From Cana, Jesus went to Capernaum, which He used as a base of operations for His ministry in Galilee. The story we read today takes place in Capernaum.

TEXT: Lk. 7:1-10 ¹ Now when He concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum. ² And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die. ³ So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant. ⁴ And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, ⁵ "for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue." ⁶ Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof. ⁷ Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁸ For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does *it*." ⁹ When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" ¹⁰ And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.

I. THE PRINCIPLE OF AUTHORITY

A. The centurion recognized that the Son of God works through an authority structure.

B. God has established certain authority relationships for all of us.

1. Parents - children
2. Husbands - wives
3. Employer - employee
4. Government - citizen
5. Church leaders - body

C. We are to submit to those in authority unless they tell us to disobey God.

II. THE SOURCE OF AUTHORITY

Lk. 7:19-22 ¹⁹ And John, calling two of his disciples to *him*, sent *them* to Jesus, saying, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?” ²⁰ When the men had come to Him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, ‘Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?’” ²¹ And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight. ²² Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that *the* blind see, *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed, *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised, *the* poor have the gospel preached to them.

A. John the Baptist questioned, “Are you the One?”

B. Jesus responded with Lk. 7:22, in essence, “I am the One!”

III. SUBMISSION TO AUTHORITY

Lk. 7:29-35 ²⁹ And when all the people heard *Him*, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him. ³¹ And the Lord said, “To what then shall I liken the men of this generation, and what are they like? ³² They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, saying: ‘We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not weep.’ ³³ For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ ³⁴ The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ ³⁵ But wisdom is justified by all her children.”

A. Even the tax collectors believed.

B. Pharisees and experts in the law did not.

1. Because Jesus would not dance to their tune. (Lk. 7:32)
2. They wanted a Christ they could control.

C. Many still want a Christ they can control.

D. Lordship means He is in control.

IV. GRATITUDE FOR AUTHORITY

Tell story of Lk. 7:36-50

A. The forgiven woman showed gratitude for her authority because of love.

B. Out of love for the Lord, we should show gratitude to those He places in authority in our lives:

1. First to God Himself
2. Children to parents
3. Wives to husbands, husbands to wives
4. To employer
5. To folk in government
6. To church leaders

CONCLUSION:

those who need to submit to God's authority, the Lordship of Christ

those who need to repent for rebellion to authority

those who want to thank God for establishing authorities