

# THE UNSHAKABLE KINGDOM #5

## Kingdom Authority

### Part 2

#### Introduction

We continue our series on “The Unshakable Kingdom” with Part 2 of our message on “Kingdom Authority”. This may be the most serious sermon in the series because it contains a great practical truth...

#### Theme

**The quality of your Christian life will rise or fall on the question of how you relate to authority.**

If you are rightly related to authority, you go up; if you are wrongly related to authority, you go down. The test is how you relate to authority.

We will take a text from Paul’s letter to the Church of Rome:

#### Romans 13:1-2

**Let every soul be *subject to the governing authorities*. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment upon themselves.**

To get where we need to go we’ll do things:

- A civics lesson in government and authority
  - Illustrations from scripture
  - How it applies to you

## I. Kingdom Authority: A Civics Lesson in Government and Authority

### A. Definitions

1. We need to be clear on what we mean by “authority”: What is authority?

#### “Authority”

**The power or right to give orders, make decisions, or enforce obedience.**

a. Notice that *authority is a form of power*.

2. Authority is directly related to government; you can't separate the two.

3. "Kingdom Authority" refers to authority or power expressed through a certain "kind" of government.

## **B. "Kingdom" is a Governmental Term**

1. What is "government"?

### **Government**

**The exercise of authority in a political unit; the agency through which a governing individual functions and exercises authority.**

2. There are many different kinds of "government" in the world; the kind of government tells us where the authority lies:

### **TYPES OF GOVERNMENT**

- **Anarchy-No one in authority (mob rule)**
- **Dictatorship-One in authority (3<sup>rd</sup> world countries)**
- **Oligarchy-A few in authority (Russia, China, Venezuela)**
- **Democracy-Authority in the people who are in the majority**
- **Republic-Authority in the people through elected representatives**
  - **Kingdom-Authority in one who has the 'divine right'**

a. God's government is not a Dictatorship where authority is forced upon the people.

### **N.T. Wright**

**"The whole point of the Kingdom of God is that Jesus has come to bear witness to the true truth, which is nonviolent. When God wants to take charge of the world, He doesn't send in the tanks. He sends in the meek and the poor in spirit."**

b. God's Kingdom is not a political Kingdom where the people look to the government for their salvation.

**Cal Thomas**

**“The Kingdom of God is not going to arrive on Air Force One.”**

c. God’s Kingdom is not a democracy or a republic, where human legislatures establish the laws.

**R.J. Rushdoony**

**“The goal is the Kingdom of God, the new Jerusalem, a world order under God’s law.”**

3. All human governments, including our own, fall short of the Kingdom of God because their laws are man-made.

**Gregory A. Boyd**

**“Jesus came to establish the Kingdom of God as a radical alternative to all versions of the kingdoms (or governments) of this world, whether they declare themselves to be ‘under God’ or not.”**

4. God’s government is a Kingdom government where authority functions at 2 levels.

#### **D. Two Kinds of Authority in the Kingdom**

1. There are 2 kinds of authority we need to know about.

##### **2 Kinds of Authority**

- 1. Direct Authority-God speaking through His word or by His Spirit**
- 2. Delegated Authority-Those God delegates to represent Him and to exercise His authority**

2. God is the *ultimate* authority; all other authority is *delegated* authority.

##### **Delegated Authority**

**The subdivision and sub-allocation of powers to the *subordinates* in order to achieve effective results.**

3. All Christians acknowledge the *direct* authority of God; but many miss how much the Bible says about how God delegates His authority to men.

**G. Milton Smith**

**“The principle of delegation of authority and ministry is fundamental in the biblical teaching of the Old Testament, as well as in the ministry of Jesus and the Apostles.”**

4. The greatest model of delegated authority is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself! Though He was God, He came to earth to minister as a MAN UNDER GOD’S AUTHORITY!

#### **Philippians 2:5-8**

**Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men...**

a. Jesus was equal with God; but He chose to lay aside His glory and humble Himself to minister as a delegate of God.

#### **John 5:19**

**"Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do..."**

5. Jesus came to earth to show us what the Kingdom looks like; a man under the delegated authority of His Father...

#### **John 5:22-23**

**For the Father Judges...that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.**

6. The Father sent the Son as a man under God’s delegated authority; so the question becomes, how did they receive Him? With honor or not?

Let’s look at 2 examples.

## **II. Illustrations of Delegated Authority in the Earthly Ministry of Jesus Christ**

### **A. The One Who Honored God’s Delegate**

1. In Matthew 5, a Roman army officer comes to Jesus asking Him to heal his servant who was sick.

**Matthew 8:5-7**

**Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."**

**And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."**

2. But the centurion says it's not necessary.

**Matthew 8:8**

**The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed."**

3. The next verse is the key to the story:

**Matthew 8:9**

**For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."**

- a. Here's the key: this man understood AUTHORITY!
- b. When he wanted something done, he did not have to do it himself!
- c. He could just "speak a word" to those under his authority and he knew that it would be done!
- d. He did not have to go see it or check it out-he knew his command would be obeyed.

4. The centurion's secret was honoring Jesus as a man "under authority".

**Matthew 8:10**

**When Jesus heard it, He *marveled*, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"**

5. Jesus marveled at his "great faith"; but so may miss this. Faith in what? In God? Yes. But more than that. He had faith that Jesus was God's delegate!

**Matthew 8:13**

**Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.**

6. Now compare this story with what happened when Jesus went to minister in His own hometown.

## **B. Jesus Returns to Nazareth**

### **Mark 6:1-3**

**Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, "Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" So they were offended at Him.**

1. Jesus has just been on the mission field: casting out 2000 demons, healing the woman with the issue of blood and raising a young girl from the dead.

2. But now He comes to His own hometown; the Roman centurion honored Him as a man sent from God; but His own people just saw Him as the carpenter's son!

a. The centurion saw Jesus as a "man under authority"; but the Nazarenes just saw Him as a man!

3. The issue is "honor"!

### **Mark 6:4**

**But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house."**

a. I call this the "sin of familiarity"; this is what happens when we look at man under authority as just another man.

b. When a wife looks at her husband and only sees the flesh; when a child looks at their father and mother and only sees a man and a woman.

4. The centurion saw Jesus as a delegate of God and he honored Him, receiving a miracle; His hometown just saw Him as a peer. And look at the result:

### **Mark 6:5**

**And He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.**

- a. This is one of the most astounding verses in the Gospels! “He could do no mighty work there” except heal a few sick people.
- b. This proves that Jesus was not ministering as God!

5. If He was ministering as God, He could do anything He wanted! But He chose to minister as a man under authority; make Himself like us; to minister as a man under authority to show us the power

### **Mark 6:6**

**And He marveled because of their unbelief.**

6. There are only 2 times where Jesus “marveled” or “was amazed”; In Matthew 8:10 He marveled at the FAITH of the centurion; but here in Mark 6:6 He marvels at their UNBELIEF.

7. In both cases, the determining factor is how they responded to Jesus as God’s delegated authority!

### **Mark 6:6**

**And He marveled because of their unbelief.**

**Then He went around the villages in a circuit, teaching.**

8. The great need today is good teaching! It’s the only thing that will bring faith and cure unbelief.

## **C. The Feeding of the Multitude**

1. I believe there is a close connection between what happened in His hometown and the famous feeding of the 5,000 recorded in this same chapter.

### **Mark 6:34**

**And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.**

2. After a while the Disciples remind Jesus the people are hungry and He says, “You feed them”; they inform Him that all they have is “5 loaves and 2 fishes”. I believe what happens next is very prophetic:

a. First, He sets them in order.

**Mark 6:39-40**

**Then He commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties.**

- Here is a fulfilment of Psalm 23: The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures!

b. Then He does 4 things with the food: He takes it, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it to His disciples;

**Mark 6:41-42**

**And when He had (1) taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, (2) blessed and (3) broke the loaves, and (4) gave them to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among them all.**

- **Here we have a prophetic picture of how the Father God would feed the world through Jesus,** who called Himself “the Bread of Life”; the Father TOOK Him, BLESSED Him, BROKE Him, and gave Him to the world!

3. And don't miss this last line: “He gave them to His disciples to set before them. So they all ate and were filled”.

**Mark 6:41-42**

**And when He had (1) taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, (2) blessed and (3) broke the loaves, and (4) gave them to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among them all.**

a. Jesus did not feed the multitude; He fed the 5,000 through the hands of His delegated authority!

b. This is a prophetic picture of how Jesus would feed the multitude after His resurrection...through His delegates!

4. I believe there is a prophetic significance to the numbers 5 & 7.

a. There were 5 loaves; I believe this number corresponds to the 5-fold ministry gifts of Ephesians 4:

### **Ephesians 4:8, 11-12**

**When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men. And He Himself gave some to be (1) apostles, some (2) prophets, some (3) evangelists, and some (4) pastors and (4) teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ...**

b. There were 2 fishes: 2 is often the number of “witness” in the Bible. And so it is with Kingdom authority; there is one who has authority but there must be one who bears witness to that authority and honors it.

5. The whole story is prophetic: The ascended Christ will feed His church by His direct authority and through His delegated authorities; the 5 fold-ministry; but how effective we are depends on how we are received.

Matthew 10:40

He that receives you, receives Me; and he that receives Me receives Him that sent Me.

6. Here we have 4 links in the chain of command in the Kingdom:

Authority Links in the Chain of Command

- God the Father
- Jesus the Son
- We as His delegates
- The one who decides on how to relate to authority

a. Testimony: I’m only as effective as how I am received. And it will be the same for you!

### **III. Conclusion**

#### **A. Review**

#### **Theme**

**The quality of your Christian life will rise or fall on the question of how you relate to authority.**

1. Identify all the true authority figures in your life: In the home, the church and the world.

2. Give honor to whom honor is due!

3. Be aware of the warnings of sinning against God's delegates!

**1 Chronicles 16:22**

**Touch not My anointed ones and do my prophets no harm.**

a. We live in a very disrespectful, dishonoring culture that is often unaware of the curse that comes upon those who dishonor God's delegates.

**Watchman Nee**

**“Whenever man touches God's delegated authority, he touches God within that person; sinning against delegated authority is sinning against God.”**

4. The authority figures in your lives may not be perfect; but God put them there. Be careful.

**John Bevere**

**“When we oppose God's delegated authority, we oppose God Himself.”**

Closing Prayer

**Communion**