

THE UNSHAKABLE KINGDOM #3

“Kingdom Authority”

Review

In our last message on the “Unshakable Kingdom” we took a look at how the incarnation of Jesus Christ was not just so He could have a body that could die for our sins; but He needed a physical body so we could “see” what the Kingdom of God looks like in action on earth.

E. Stanley Jones

“The revelation of the Kingdom of God must not be just a *verbal* revelation--It must be the Word become flesh—we must *see it* as well as *hear it*”.

Jesus came from heaven to earth to “incarnate” the Kingdom of God; He literally fulfilled this line from the Lord’s Prayer...

Matthew 6:10

Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

In other words, the earthly ministry of Jesus was a demonstration of how the power of the Kingdom of God is released “on earth as it is heaven”. Tonight I want to teach on the topic...

I. “Kingdom Authority”

I have 3 points:

- **Jesus ministered as a man under authority**
- **He demonstrated His authority in His ministry (8 ways)**
- **After the resurrection, He delegated His authority to His people**

A. Jesus Ministered as a Man Under Authority

1. Jesus did not perform His powerful signs and wonders as the Son of God but, as He called Himself, “the Son of Man”.

2. **He never ceased to be God; but He chose to minister as a man to provide us a picture for how the power of God operates *through a man*.**

3. Remember that He never performed a miracle until He was baptized in the Holy Spirit at age 30. Then when He did begin to work miracles, He made sure they understood that He was not doing them out of His own power! So He said of Himself...

John 5:19

Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

a. In his book "When Heaven Touches Earth"...

Bill Johnson

"Jesus said He could 'do nothing of Himself'. While He is 100% God, He chose to live with the same limitations that man would face once he was redeemed. He performed miracles, wonders and signs as man in right relationship to God."

b. This was verified in the testimony of the early church in the Book of Acts, that Jesus worked His miracles as a "man"!

Acts 2:22

"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man approved of God among you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in the midst of you..."

c. Let me repeat a part of the quote above:

Bill Johnson

"Jesus performed miracles, wonders and signs as man in right relationship to God."

4. The key to Kingdom power is a Son in right relationship to the Father; which means being "under the authority" of His Father. Let me say it this way:

Jesus ministered on earth as a man with the anointing of the Holy Spirit and as a Son under the authority of His Father.

"Authority"

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

B. Jesus Demonstrated His Authority in His Earthly Ministry

KINDOM AUTHORITY OF CHRIST

- 1. Authority in His Teaching. (Matthew 7:28-29)**
- 2. Authority over Leprosy (8:1-3)**
- 3. Authority over Sickness (8:14-15)**
- 4. Authority over Demons (8:16-17)**
- 5. Authority over Nature (8:23-27)**
- 6. Authority over Sin (9:1-8)**
- 7. Authority over Men (9:9)**
- 8. Authority over Death (9:18-26)**

1. In His preaching.

- a. The Sermon on the Mount

Matt 7:28-29

And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Matthew Henry

“The scribes and Pharisees spoke as those who were not yet themselves masters of what they preached. The word did not come from them with any life or force, as a school-boy says his lesson; but Christ delivered his discourse, as a judge gives his judgment--with a tone of authority. His lessons were law; his word a word of command.”

Albert Barnes

“He showed that he had authority to explain, to enforce, and to change the ceremonial laws of the Jews. It is not remarkable that his explanations astonished them.”

The secret of the power of the teaching and preaching of Jesus was that He spoke
“as one having authority”.

But here are 7 other areas where Jesus demonstrated authority; not in preaching but
in power.

2. Authority over Leprosy.

Matthew 8:1-3

When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

a. It is not an accident that the first miracle He performed after His amazing Sermon on the Mount was the cleansing of the leper.

b. Leprosy was considered incurable and the Jews believed it to be a physical manifestation of the effects of sin.

3. Authority over Sickness.

Matthew 8:14-15

Now when Jesus had come into Peter's house, He saw his wife's mother lying sick with a fever. So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them.

4. Authority over Demons.

Matthew 8:16-17

When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick...

5. Authority over Nature.

Matthew 8:23-27

23 Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. 24 And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. 25 Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" 26 But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27 So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

KJV-"What manner of man is this, that even the winds and sea obey Him?"

- a. Another place He walked on the water.
- b. Another place He commanded a tree to wither and die.
- c. Another place He sent His men to catch a fish to pay their taxes.

6. Authority over Sin.

Matthew 9:1-4

And getting into a boat, He crossed over, and came to His own city. 2 And behold, they were bringing to Him a paralytic, lying on a bed; and Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, "Take courage, My son, your sins are forgiven."

a. Jesus had already demonstrated His authority over sickness; He could have simply healed this man; but instead He chose to demonstrate His authority over sin!

Matthew 9:3-4

And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This fellow blasphemes." And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, "Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?"

Matthew 9:5-6

"For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, and walk'? "But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — then He said to the paralytic — "Rise, take up your bed, and go home."

b. They were not offended Jesus had authority to heal the sick. They were offended He had authority to forgive the sinner. Today we have the opposite problem. The modern American church has no problem with Jesus authority to forgive the sinner; but many never preach of His power to heal the sick!

c. Which is easier? Neither. Because He has authority over both!

Matthew 9:7-8

And he rose, and went home. But when the multitudes saw this, they were filled with awe, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

7. Authority over Men.

Matthew 9:9

And as Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man, called Matthew, sitting in the tax office; and He said to him, "Follow Me!" And he rose, and followed Him.

a. Here we have a demonstration of authority over men when He calls us with what theologians refer to as “effectual calling”.

b. Jesus said, “Many are called few are chosen”. The “general” call to follow Jesus is offered to everyone. But only the “chosen” respond.

c. It is the preceptive will of God to call everyone to repentance; but to those who are chosen, it is a decree; and they obey!

8. Authority over Death.

Matthew 9:18-19

While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live." So Jesus arose and followed him, and so did His disciples.

a. After a brief interruption to heal the woman with the issue of blood, Jesus comes to the ruler’s house where the funeral is on.

Matthew 9:24-26

But He said to them, "Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him. But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. And the report of this went out into all that land.

b. John’s Gospel confirms Jesus’ authority over death in the resurrection of His Lazarus, who had been dead 3 days.

John 11:43-44

Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

Review

- So we see Jesus ministered as a man under the authority of God
 - He demonstrated that authority in His earthly ministry

KINDOM AUTHORITY OF CHRIST

1. Authority in His Teaching. (Matthew 7:28-29)
2. Authority over Leprosy (8:1-3)
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All this shows a close connection between authority and faith, beautifully illustrated in...

C. The Story of Jesus & the Centurion

1. A Centurion in the Roman army was an officer who had authority over 100 soldiers; this one sought Him out:

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. What a beautiful condescension of Christ; He is willing to go to physically go to the home of a Roman soldier, surely a Gentile, and pray for his servant. But no...

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. What a beautiful picture of humility! "Lord, I am not worthy...you don't have to come..." And then the amazing statement of faith—"Only speak the word and my servant will be healed." Thank God he explains what he means...

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.
- e. The key: "For I TOO am a MAN UNDER AUTHORITY!"

4. This made an amazing impression upon the Lord; one of only 2 times in the Gospels where Jesus is "amazed" or where He " marvels".

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. So many miss this: what was the foundation for the soldier's faith? Was it Jesus? Yes, but it was more than that. He had faith in the authority of Jesus!

- a. How about you and me? We have faith in Jesus; but do we have faith in the authority of Jesus?
- b. Do we require Jesus to physically come to our house or do we just believe that His spoken word has the authority to bring about the miracle?
- c. Jesus had not found 'such great faith' in Israel as he found in this Roman officer!

Matthew 8:11

And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

6. Notice how Jesus connects all this with the Kingdom! A Kingdom is a form of government; governments have power because governments have authority! And the power was released!

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.

REVIEW

- So Jesus ministered on earth as a man under authority

- He demonstrated His authority throughout His earthly ministry
- All well and good. But Jesus is in heaven. What does it mean for us today?
- My last point is that after the resurrection, Jesus has given His delegated authority to His church.

Bill Johnson

“The backbone of Kingdom authority and power is found in the commission.”

II. The Commissioning of the Church

A. Matthew’s Version of the Great Commission

1. After His resurrection from the dead, Jesus appears to His disciples and gives them what is commonly called, “The Great Commission”. Notice how He begins:

Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

2. “All” means “all”; ‘in heaven and on earth’ covers the creation; this means that God the Father has “delegated” all authority into the hands of His Son.

3. Notice the next verse begins with a “Therefore”...

Matthew 28:19-20

Therefore go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

4. We find even more specifics in Mark’s version of the Commission:

Mark 16:15-16

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Mark 1:16-18 (Excerpt)

And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

5. The last words of the Gospel of Mark tell us the result:

Mark 16:19-20

So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

III. Conclusion

A. Review "Kingdom Authority":

1. Jesus operated as a man under the anointing of the Holy Spirit and as a Son under the authority of His Father. (This is available to us)

2. Jesus demonstrated His authority in His ministry: He gave us a pattern for incarnating the Kingdom.

3. Now He has given to us the delegated authority to do what He did.

4. The key to unlocking Kingdom power is the revelation of Kingdom authority.

Martin Luther

"The Kingdom of God does not consist in talk, but in power, that is works and practice. God loves the 'doers of the Word' in faith and love, not the mere 'hearers', who, like parrots, have learned to utter certain expressions with readiness."

ALTAR MINISTRY AND CLOSING PRAYER