

Discipleship

Lesson - 9 Discipling The Powerful

Memory Verse

Acts 6:7 (NKJV) *Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.*

Jeremiah 9:23–24 (NKJV) *Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; ²⁴ But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the Lord.*

Respecting Authority

Should people always obey their government? If not, why not?

Romans 13:1–7 (NKJV) *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. ² Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. ⁴ For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. ⁵ Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God’s ministers attending continually to this very thing. ⁷ Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor. **Is it a sin to speed.***

“The people of God will recognize human government as an ordinance of divine appointment and will teach obedience to it as a sacred duty within its legitimate sphere. But when its claims conflict with the claims of God, the word of God must be recognized as above all human legislation. Thus saith the Lord is not to be set aside for Thus saith the church or the state. The crown of Christ is to be uplifted above the diadems of earthly potentates.” - Testimonies vol. 6, p. 402.

***Luke 20:25 (NKJV)** *And He said to them, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”*

The Early Explosion Before Kings and Rulers

***Mark 13:9 (NKJV)** *“But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them.*

Acts 4:13 (NKJV) *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.*

Acts 25:23 *So the next day, when Agrippa and Bernice had come with great pomp, and had entered the auditorium with the commanders and the prominent men of the city, at Festus’ command Paul was brought in.*

Acts 6:15 (NKJV) *And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel.*

Pray for Authorities

1 Timothy 2:1–2 *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.*

***Ezra 6:10 (NKJV)** *that they may offer sacrifices of sweet aroma to the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king and his sons.*

John 19:8–12 *Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, ⁹ and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, “Where are You from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ Then Pilate said to Him, “Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?” Jesus answered, “**You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.**”*

God gave a dream to Pilate’s wife.

Acts 23:1–5 *Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, “Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.”*

² *And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. ³ Then Paul said to him, “God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! For you sit to judge me according to the law, and do you command me to be struck contrary to the law?” ⁴ And those who stood by said, “Do you revile God’s high priest?” ⁵ Then Paul said, “I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written, ‘You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.’”*

***Matthew 7:28–29** (NKJV) *And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, ²⁹ for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

Esther 9:29 (NKJV) *Then Queen Esther, the daughter of Abihail, with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter about Purim.*

Matthew 21:23–27 (NKJV) *Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, “By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?” ²⁴ But Jesus answered and said to them, “I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: ²⁵ The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?” And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘From men,’ we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus and said, “We do not know.” And He said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”*

Daniel 3:16–18 *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”*

“Have You Not Read . . . ?”

Mark 2:23–28 *Now it happened that He went through the grainfields on the Sabbath; and as they went His disciples began to pluck the heads of grain. ²⁴ And the Pharisees said to Him, “Look, why do they do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?” But He said to them, “Have you never read what David did when he was in need and hungry, he and those with him: ²⁶ how he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the showbread, which is not lawful to eat except for the priests, and also gave some to those who were with him?” And He said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.”*

***Acts 6:7** (NKJV) *Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.*

The Centurion

Matthew 8:5–13 (NKJV) *Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, ⁶ saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.” ⁷ And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.” 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. 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.” 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! ¹¹ ... 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.*

Genesis 39:4 (NKJV) *So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority.*

Judgment Day

Matthew 26:62–66 (NKJV) ⁶² *And the high priest arose and said to Him, “Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?” But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, “I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!” ⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, “It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.” Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, “He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! What do you think?” They answered and said, “He is deserving of death.”*

Luke 23:1–4 (NKJV) *Then the whole multitude of them arose and led Him to Pilate. ² And they began to accuse Him, saying, “We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King.” ³ Then Pilate asked Him, saying, “Are You the King of the Jews?” He answered him and said, “It is as you say.” ⁴ So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no fault in this Man.”*

John 18:31–32 *Then Pilate said to them, “You take Him and judge Him according to your law.” Therefore the Jews said to him, “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death,” that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die.*

Authority - NT word is *exousia*, meaning rightful, and unimpeded power to act, a valid inner authority, The possession or control of and right to use power. Whereas *dynamis* means physical power.

Jesus has the authority to teach (Mark 1:22), to forgive sins and cure sickness (Matt. 9:6 par. Mark 2:10; Luke 5:24), and to judge (John 5:27). It is through the full authority of Christ “in heaven and on earth” (Matt. 28:18; cf. John 10:17) that his disciples were able to teach, heal the sick, and cast out evil spirits (Matt. 10:1 par. Mark 6:7; Luke 10:19). Paul also cited his apostolic authority (2 Cor. 10:8; 13:10; cf. 1 Cor. 9:4, 18) and warned others not to abuse their power (cf. 1 Cor. 8:9; RSV “liberty”). Most importantly, it was the power of God acting through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ that made possible the ultimate authority over all powers, human and superhuman (e.g., 1 Cor. 15:24; Eph. 1:21; Rev. 13:2).

As the Word of God, the Scriptures are regarded as authoritative.