

Lesson 1 | Wednesday, December 6, 2023

MIND YOUR KING, lessons from Doy Moyer's Book, Mind Your King.

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How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the herald, who proclaims peace, who brings news of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" (Isaiah 52:7, quoted in Romans 10:15).

- When you proclaim salvation, what do you say to Zion?
- What is the connection to authority from this proclamation of the gospel?

Why should we listen to the One who reigns?

- Genesis 1:1:
- Acts 2:29-36:
- 2Peter 1:20-21:
- Jeremiah 10:23:

Dear friends, although I was eager to write you about the salvation we share, I found it necessary to write, appealing to you to contend for the faith that was delivered to the saints once for all. ⁴For some people, who were designated for this judgment long ago,^[b] have come in by stealth; they are ungodly, turning the grace of our God into sensuality and denying Jesus Christ, our only Master and Lord...⁸ In the same way these people—relying on their dreams—defile their flesh, reject authority, and slander glorious ones... ¹¹Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, have plunged into Balaam's error for profit, and have perished in Korah's rebellion. (Jude 3-11).

What happens when we do not listen?

- **The way of Cain:** What was it? What attitude did they display? (Genesis 4).
- **The error of Balaam:** What was it? What attitude did they display? (Numbers 22, see Deuteronomy 23:4-5).
- **The rebellion of Korah:** What was it? What attitude did they display? (Numbers 16).

How was it that Adam and Eve sinned in the garden (Genesis 3:5, see 1John 3:4).

And history has been filled with revolutions and rebellions against authority.

- Bernard Ramm wrote, "protestation against authority is really against authority which is not authority in its own right, or authority which has become officious or excessive" (The Pattern of Authority, 16).
- J.I. Packer wrote, "the problem of authority is the most fundamental problem that the Christian Church ever faces. This is because Christianity is built on truth: that is to say, on the content of a divine revelation." He continues that having, "the right criterion of truth, by which we may tell the word of God from human error... We must expect to find error constantly assailing the truth; Christendom will always be a theological battlefield" (Fundamentalism and the Word of God, 43). And last he says, "The deepest cleavages in Christendom are doctrinal; and the deepest doctrinal cleavages are those which result from

disagreement about authority. Radical divergences are only to be expected when there is no agreement as to the proper grounds for believing anything" (44).

Define Authority.

1. **Positional Authority.** Authority held based on a position. Example: Police, Mayors, Kings, Judges. Power held because of someone's position. Note each of them received this position (even Kings). Can you think of others?
2. **Delegated Authority.** Authority delegated as permission to act by the one who has the power to grant it. Example: Driver's License, Real Estate License, Law license, et.al. Our permission is our authority.
3. **Inherent Authority:** There is no one who gives the position or permits. Only God has this authority (c.f. Genesis 1:1).

If we say we have "God's authority," we are claiming that He has given us the permission to act.

1. How does this connect to Colossians 3:17?
2. How do we know today that we have God's permission?
 - a. The Son has spoken it. (Matthew 28:18).
 - b. The Spirit has revealed it. (Ephesians 6:17; John 12:48; 16:12-13).
 - c. The Ambassadors/Apostles/Prophets wrote it. (Ephesians 3:4).
3. To whom has God delegated authority?
 - a. Romans 13:1-7:
 - b. Ephesians 5:22-6:4:
 - c. Colossians 1:18:

Other Discussion Questions:

1. Why do people generally rebel against authority? *Can it ever said to be justified?*
2. What is the difference between inherent authority and delegated authority? Why is it important to understand?
3. When we claim we have authority to act, what kind of authority are we claiming? Why?