

Lesson 3 | Wednesday, December 20, 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).

- One of the recurring themes in the writings of the Apostles is **to follow the example of Jesus**.
 - a. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:1: "**Imitate Me** as I Christ", see Eph 5:1.
 - b. Peter says in 1 Peter 2:21: "For you were called to this because Christ also suffered for you, **leaving you an example**, that you may follow in His steps."
- **But why is the example of Jesus authoritative?**
 - a. Jesus is God: "In the beginning was the Word... and the Word was God" (John 1:1).
- **So what can we learn from His example?**
 1. First, we should look at His attitude for Scripture.
 - a. Consider His view of Scripture in temptation:
 - i. In response to temptation, he said, "It is written" (see Luke 4, Matt 4).
 - ii. The first response quoted Scripture from Deuteronomy 8:3. Look at the context.
 - iii. Moses recounts Israel's wandering in the wilderness (8:2) and Jesus was in his own wilderness for 40 days.
 - iv. But the account of Moses says this was a test to prove whether they would keep the commands of God.
 1. 7:12: "if you listen to and careful to keep these ordinances, the LORD your God will keep covenant with you."
 2. 8:1: "Carefully follow every command I am following you today..."
 3. 8:3: "That you might learn man lives on every word that comes from the mouth of God".
 - b. Consider His view of Scripture in history:
 - i. Adam and Eve were the first couple (Matthew 19:3-6).
 - ii. Abel was a man who was a prophet (Luke 11:50-51).
 - iii. Noah and the flood (Matthew 24:37-39).
 - iv. Miracles of Elijah (Luke 4:25-27).
 - v. Jonah and the great fish (Matthew 12:40-41).
 - c. Consider His view of the force of commands:
 - i. That Jesus never sinned (Hebrews 4:15-16) and never took the liberty to do whatever He wanted apart from the Father's will speaks volumes (see Mark 14:36, et.al).
 - ii. His food was to do the will of God (John 4:34).
 - iii. He sought the Father's will (John 5:30).
 - iv. "Breaching God's authority is a result of not seeking His will before ours, and of taking out own initiative apart from what God has revealed" (Moyer, 22).
 - d. If Jesus did not distinguish His words from the words of the Father's will (see "The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63), why would true

disciples seek to do otherwise (see John 8:31). What kind of attitude to Scripture and God's commands will they seek to have?

- i. "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your cares on him, because he cares about you." (1Peter 5:6).
 - ii. "But he gives greater grace. Therefore, he says: God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Therefore, submit to God." (James 4:6-7).
- 2. The church must understand the KINGdom.**
- a. The foundation of the gospel message is that Our God Reigns (not His people).
 - i. It about His will being done "in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 6:10).
 - ii. If we do not need authority, we do not need the King.
 - iii. And as a result, "we are to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects" (Colossians 1:10).
 - b. His rule is a gift to the church (see Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18).
- 3. Even when Jesus is questioned by Pharisees about where His authority comes from (c.f. Matthew 21:23-27), even their question acknowledges that there is a need for authority in the religious realm and second, that the authority must come from the One who has the power to grant it. And to this Jesus answered, "From Heaven or Men" where did John get His authority to baptize? If it does not come from Heaven, it has no power.**

Review and apply these verses:

- Luke 6:46 | "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and don't do the things I say?"
- 1Corinthians 4:6 | "Now, brothers and sisters, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying: "Nothing beyond what is written." The purpose is that none of you will be arrogant, favoring one person over another."
- 2John 9-11 | "Anyone who does not remain in Christ's teaching but goes beyond it does not have God. The one who remains in that teaching, this one has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your home, and do not greet him; for the one who greets him shares in his evil works."
- What others would you consider relevant?