

Lesson 4 | Wednesday, December 27, 2023

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

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Has God always expected humanity to act with authority? As we discussed in lesson one, only God has inherent authority (c.f. Genesis 1:1; Psalm 22:28). Even in our time, we acknowledge there are people with positional authority (based and relative to their position) like the police, kings, or judges. And there is authority that is delegated when one is given permission to act by the one who has the power to grant it. Example: Driver's License, Real Estate License, Law license, et.al. With God, we do not have inherent authority at all. The position of authority only God can grant. So we are seeking permission by being delegated – or authorized – to act with His approval.

The Scriptures are the source for us of what God has authorized. His word is the source for all of His will (2Timothy 3:16-17). Humans cannot be trusted to be a religious authority for others (c.f. Proverbs 14:12; Jeremiah 10:23). Christians today have received the full message of what God has approved for us to believe and to practice (Jude 3, Hebrews 4:12-13).

If God is Creator and Christ is King, we have to right to ignore His will (Matthew 28:18-20; John 12:48). Scripture shows that this is our deepest human need. We have sinned because we have rebelled against Him (c.f. 1John 3:4). We are under His authority, whether sinners or saved. So as Christians, we are not freed from His sovereignty over us.

The Old Testament “written in the past was written for our instruction, so that we may have hope through endurance and through the encouragement from the Scriptures” (Romans 15:4). And in it, we learn to appreciate God and His expectations from Creation. And even Paul said that these historical truths are to serve as warnings to Christians: “Now these things took place as examples for us, so that we will not desire evil things as they did... These things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our instruction, on whom the ends of the ages have come” (1Corinthians 10:6,11). Here are some examples to remind us of the need to follow the authority of God.

1. Adam and Eve (Genesis 3). What did they fail to do? _____

2. Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10). What had the Lord said about the strange fire they offered up to Him? _____

3. Moses (Numbers 20). While much of Moses' life was model for Israel, what in this reading demonstrates that God was displeased with Moses? _____

4. David's Cart (1Chronicles 13:1-12; 15:12-15). Why as God angered with them (c.f. 15:13 and 15:15)? _____

5. Uzziah's Transgression (2Chronicles 26:16-20). Why did the priests try to stop Uzziah from entering the Temple to burn incense? _____

Besides the text we have based each lesson on (c.f. *“to Zion, “Your God reigns!”* (Isaiah 52:7, quoted in Romans 10:15), the New Testament written in the age of grace and mercy still demonstrate the human responsibility to yield to the authority of God.

1. Jesus and the Pharisee’s Question (Matthew 21:23-27). When question “By what authority do You do these things,” Jesus turns the question back on them to demonstrate there are only two sources to consider – and only one to follow: Is it from Heaven or from Men? What is the only choice for one who acts under the authority of God?

2. Jesus and His Sermon (Matthew 7:21-23). In painting a judgment scene for those who have heard His sermon, who are those who will “enter the kingdom of Heaven”?

3. In Hebrews, to whom is Jesus the source of eternal salvation (or, life) (Hebrews 5:9)?

There are many more we have already referenced (Luke 6:46; 1Corinthians 4:6; Colossians 3:17; 1Peter 4:11; 2John 9-11; Revelation 22:18-19). Which one of these do you find the most compelling, and why? _____

Final Thoughts:

1. Why are examples from the Old Testament so important for a Christian today? _____

2. What is lawlessness and why is it so destructive? _____

3. How does any of this discount the message of grace and mercy in the gospel, or does it? (c.f. Romans 10:15)?
