

Principles of Spiritual Authority

TOPIC LESSON GUIDE

“For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.” (1 Timothy 2:2)

LESSONS

1. AUTHORITY & SUBJECTION

- A. THE IMPORTANCE OF AUTHORITY
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3. MAXIMS

LESSON 1.A

THE IMPORTANCE OF AUTHORITY

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. ²Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.” (Romans 13:1-2)

1. At the heart of every sin and coming short of the glory of God is a battle of the will and spiritual authority. A battle whereby we submit either to God's will and authority or to our own will and authority.
2. Sin is nothing more than not doing what God told us to do. God tells us not to lie, cheat, or steal, but we do. The sin is not the action, but not being obedient to His word. The source and root of all sin is disobedience (rebellion).
3. But, IF God could ever get us over our selfishness (our self life) in satisfying our fleshly desires and our pre-occupation with sin He could really use us.
4. Obedience to God is the source and root of God's spiritual authority. The acts of God issue from God and His throne, and His throne is established on His word (what He speaks) and His authority. All things are created by God; through God's authority, even the physical laws for the universe, and His word.
“I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.” (Isaiah 45:7)
5. For God's authority represents God Himself whereas His power stands only for His acts. Thus, sin against His power is more easily forgiven than sin against His authority, because the latter is a sin against God himself.
6. God alone is the authority in all things; all the authorities of the earth are instituted by God. Authority is a tremendous thing in the universe, but also a very misunderstood thing. It is therefore imperative for us who desire to serve God, to know the authority of God.
7. To offend God's authority is a rebellion far more serious than that of offending God's holiness. Since it is a matter of conduct, sinning is more easily forgiven than rebellion, the latter being a matter of principle.
8. Satan's intent of setting his throne above the throne of God was the thing which violated God's authority; it was the principle of self-exaltation. Satan's fall was the product of his rebellion against God's spiritual authority. Rebellion is one thing God ALWAYS condemns.

9. We preach the gospel in order to bring men into God's authority (into the kingdom of God) not into the church or so that we will all go to Heaven, but how can we bring men into God's authority if we ourselves have not met His authority?

LESSON 1.B

THE OBEDIENCE OF THE SON

“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:” (Philippians 5:8-9)

“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;” (Hebrews 5:8-9)

1. In these two verses Jesus is seen as having humbled Himself. He emptied Himself of His divinity, and then He humbled Himself in His humanity. By the time Jesus came to earth He had emptied Himself of all of His glory power, status, and form of His divinity that no one then living, other than by revelation, knew Him nor acknowledged Him as the Son of God.

2. As Son He willingly submitted to the Father’s authority and declared,

“Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.” (John 14:28)

This is why God said of His Son

“And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:17)

Jesus never did anything of His own, He was totally dependent on His Father.

3. For us to be obedient it should be simple, because all we need is but a little humility. For Christ to be obedient, however, is was not such simple a matter. He had to empty Himself of His glory. Jesus was the emptiest man in the world, this is why His Father was always filling Him.

4. Jesus had to empty Himself and become obedient to the Father. He did this before the world was made.

“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” (Revelation 13:8)

Before the world was made Jesus was obedient unto death, even to the death of the cross, to the Father.

5. When Jesus came to the world He forsook or took off His authority and put on obedience. He willingly took the place of a slave, accepting the human limitations and restrictions of human life. Hence, obedience was initiated by the Son of God.

6. Since Jesus was obedient unto death, suffering a most painful and shameful death on the cross, God highly exalted Him. Jesus was exalted and given a name above all names because He humbled Himself and BECAME obedient, not because He was God’s Son.

7. God always exalts whoever humbles himself, this is a divine spiritual principle. Humility and exaltation walk hand-in-hand.

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." (James 4:10)

The words "*shall lift you up*" is translated in the Greek as "exaltation."

8. To be filled with Christ is to be filled with obedience. Since authority and obedience have been instituted by God it is natural for those who know God, obey. But those who know not God know neither authority and obedience.

9. Christ is the principle of obedience. Hence a person who is filled with Christ must be one who is also filled with obedience. If one is filled with obedience they can then give it away. A man can not give what he does not have. If we have never received salvation then we can never "truly" be obedient.

10. The writer of Hebrews stated Christ "*learned obedience by the things He suffered.*" Suffering called forth obedience from the Lord. Please note that Jesus did not bring obedience to the earth. He learned it and He did so through suffering.

11. When we meet suffering we then learn obedience. Such obedience is real. However, our usefulness is not determined by whether or not we have suffered, but by how much obedience we have learned through the suffering. Its like, it does not matter what we do for God, but how we do it. Do we do it for the right reason, with the right intention and motive, and in the right heart condition.

12. The obedient one alone is useful to God. As long as our heart is not softened, suffering will not leave us. Because of this many today suffer in vain. Our way lies in many sufferings; the easy-goers and pleasure-lovers are useless before God.

13. Our salvation makes us obedient as well as joyous. If we seek only joy, our spiritual possession will not be rich; but those who are obedient will experience the abundance of salvation. Let us not change the nature of salvation. Let us obey, "*being made perfect, (mature) he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;*"

Eternal life is for only those who are obedient to God.

14. God saves us that we may obey His will, not go to Heaven. If we have met God's authority we shall "discover" obedience to be easy and God's will to be simple, because Jesus Himself was always obedient and has given this life, through His death, of obedience to us.

LESSON 1.C

MEN SHOULD OBEY DELEGATED AUTHORITY

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.” (Romans 13:1) “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.” (*Romans 13:1*)

“Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; 14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.” (1 Peter 2:13-14)

1. God is the source of all authorities in the universe. God’s delegated authority is any governing authority established. The arrangements are as follows :

FAMILY

- A. God
- B. Christ
- C. Father & Mother
- D. Children
- E. People

CHURCH

- A. God
- B. Christ
- C. Pastor
- D. Church

WORLD

- A. God
- B. Christ
- C. Family
- E. Authority/Authorities

2. Since all governing authorities are instituted by Him, then all authorities are delegated by Him and represents His authority. God Himself has established this system of authority in order to manifest Himself to us.

3. Wherever people encounter authority they meet God. It is impossible for men to come to know God through His presence; but even without His presence they can still know Him through His authority.

4. If we would indeed learn how to obey God we would then have not trouble recognizing on whom God’s authority rest. But if we only know God’s direct authority, we may possibly violate more than half of His authority. We must be subject to God’s delegated authority as well as to God’s direct authority, for they are one in the same.

5. As to earthly authorities Paul not only exhorts positively toward subjection but also warns negatively against resistance. He who resist authorities are resisting God’s own command, they too are one in the same. And the end of such resistance is always judged and punished. The great the rebellion/resistance the swifter the punishment.

6. After having led His people out of Egypt into the wilderness, God gave them ten commandments and many ordinances. Among these was one which declared;

"Thou shalt not revile the gods, nor curse the ruler of thy people." (Exodus 22:28)

This is still in effect today for us. This also proves God had put them under rulers. Even in Moses' time, the Israelites who resisted authority were actually resisting God Himself. When we resist the Pastor we are resisting God, for the Pastor is God's delegated authority to the church.

7. Paul shows us in Romans 13 all who are in authority are God's servants, whether they be a vessel for honour or dishonour.

"Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?" (Romans 9:21)

He is the potter we are the clay. Clay does not talk back!!!

8. We MUST be subject to the local authority under which we live, as well as to the authority of our own nation and race. All powers have their own laws, however, the laws of a nation are derived from the laws of God. When we break the laws of the nation we reside, we are breaking the laws of God.

9. The symbols for subjection to earthly authorities are four fold:

- A. Taxes to whom taxes are due
- B. Revenue (money/riches/wealth) to whom revenue is due
- C. Respect to whom respect is due
- D. Honour where honour is due

A Christian obeys the law not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of their conscience. Our conscience is to reprove us if we are disobedient. We must not carelessly criticize or denounce government. Even the police on the street are commissioned by God. In any event, insubordination to authority is mutiny towards God.

10. In the family (Ephesians 5:22-24, Ephesians 6:1-3, and Colossians 3:18,20,22) God has set the husband as the delegated authority of Christ with the wife as representative. It would be difficult for the wife to be subject to the husband if she does not see the delegated authority vested in him by God.

(For women: Titus 2:4-5 and 1 Peter 3:1, 5, 6)

11. God has set up parents in authority. To be subject to parents requires a seeing of God's authority. (For children: Ephesians 6:1, 2, 3 and Colossians 3:20)

12. God sets His church authorities. The younger ones in age must also learn to be subject to the older ones. Our first question should be to whom should I obey? A Christian needs to have two senses: the sense of sin and the sense of authority. Even when the Pastor and the people gather to voice opinion only one can make the final decision. Some are greater, some are lesser, this order is not arranged by man; nevertheless, each needs to know where they stand.

(For Church: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, 1 Corinthians 11: 3,10; 14: 33-35; 16: 15-16, 1 Timothy 2:11-17; 5:17, 1 Peter 5:5, 2 Peter 2:10-11)

13. To reject delegated authority is an affront to God. Delegated authority is so serious that if one offends it they are at odds with God. Can we trust any less when God displays such trust in His delegated authority? People will perhaps argue what if the authority is wrong? Well the answer is, if God dares to entrust His authority to men, then we can dare to obey. Whether the one in authority is right or wrong does not concern us, since he has to be responsible directly to God.

14. It is good to be in and under authority. The obedient needs only to obey; the Lord will not hold us responsible for any mistaken obedience, rather will He hold the delegated authority responsible for his wrongful act. Insubordination, however, is rebellion, and for this the one under authority must answer to God.

15. It is therefore clear that no human element is involved in this matter of authority. If our subjection is merely directed to a man the whole meaning of authority is lost. When God institutes His delegated authority He is bound by His honour to maintain that authority. We are each one of us responsible before God in this matter. Let us be careful that we make no mistake.

LESSON 1.D

THE MEASURE OF OBEYING AUTHORITY

“Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; 14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.” (1 Peter 2:13-14) “But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:19-20)

“Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.” (Acts 5:29)

1. Submission is a matter of attitude, while obedience is a matter of conduct. Thus, submission is absolute, but obedience is relative. In God often times, what we believe to be right or wrong does not matter. Be careful in judging absolutes.

2. Slavery today is wrong in the eyes of man, but in the Bible slavery was okay. Paul even exhorted slaves to be obedient to their masters.

“Servants, (slaves) be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness (one vision and focus) of your heart, as unto Christ;” (Ephesians 6:5)

The issue was not the slavery, but the submission of the slaves. The submission in their heart. At the heart of every issue is an issue of my heart. Often times with issues of the heart we get off track.

3. In Acts 4:19, their spirit was not rebellious, since they submitted to those in authority. Obedience however cannot be absolute. Some authorities must be obeyed; while others should not be, especially in matters which touch on things of God and sharing the gospel. We can question, suggest, and reply to authorities, yet we must never show an unsubmitive attitude. Submission must be absolute.

4. One who knows authority will be soft and tender. They will be absolute in their submission in heart, (in attitude) in word, and action. Even if they disagree. There is be no sign of harshness or rebellion.

5. Thus, when delegated authority (men who represent God’s authority) and direct authority (God Himself) are in conflict, one can render submission but not obedience to the delegated authority. When Jesus stood before Pilate there was great resistance in Him. But the Bible said, *“He opened not His mouth.”* In silence He gave great resistance. He submitted, but did not obey Pilate.

6. So here are the Spiritual principles:

A. Obedience is related to conduct, it is relative. Submission is related to our heart attitude and is absolute.

B. God alone receives unqualified obedience without measure, any person lower than God can only receive qualified obedience.

C. Should the delegated authority issue an order clearly contradicting God's command, we give submission but not obedience. We submit to the person God gave the authority to (submitting to God in reality), but we must disobey the order of God.

7. Now, how can we judge whether a person is obedient to authority?

A. A person who has known authority will naturally try to find authority wherever they go. Only Christian can really obey, and they too must learn to obey, not outwardly, but from their heart.

B. A person who has met God's authority is soft and tender. They have been melted and is not able to be hardened. They are afraid of being wrong.

C. A person who "truly" knows authority never likes to be in authority. He does not take delight in giving counsel or controlling others. True obedience is always in fear of making error.

D. A person who knows authority keeps their mouth closed. He is under restraint. He dares not speak carelessly because there is in them a sense of authority.

E. A person who knows authority is sensitive to each act of lawlessness (iniquity or working outside the law) around them because they have a sense of righteousness and truth in them.

8. The church is maintained by two essentials: life and authority. The indwelling life we have received is a life of submission, enabling us to obey authority. Most matters of outward disobedience mostly are related to a lack of inward submission.

9. Paul in Ephesians share this important truth with us;

"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:" (Ephesians 4:19)

The unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God seems to be still so far away yet it is not actually that far off is we have known authority.

10. The life we have received is not only for dealing with sin but more for obeying. When the spirit of rebellion leaves us then will the spirit of obedience be quickly restored to the church. And if all the church walk in this way of obedience the glorious fact of the unity of the faith will suddenly appear before our eyes.

LESSON 2.A

GOD'S DELEGATED AUTHORITY

“For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. 10 When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, not in Israel.”(Matthew 8:9-10)

1. God’s children should not only learn to recognize authority, they should likewise be looking for those to whom they ought to be obedient. The Centurion who spoke to Jesus truly was a man who knew authority. Today, even as God upholds the whole universe with His authority so He joins His children together through His authority.
2. If anyone of His children is independent and self-reliant not subject to God’s delegated authority then that one can never accomplish the work of God on earth. Each and every child of God must look for some authority to obey so that they may be well coordinated with others.
3. We are not to choose whom to obey, but to learn to be subject to all governing authorities. There is no one who is fit to be God’s delegated authority unless he himself first knows how to be under authority. And, no one can know how to exercise authority until his own rebellion has been dealt with.
4. Beyond a personal knowledge of authority and a life lived under authority God’s delegated authority needs to fulfill the following three requirements:

A. He must know that all authority come from God.

(1) Every person who is called to be a delegated authority should remember, “. . . *there is no delegated authority except from God; and those exist are set up by God.*” (Romans 13:1) 14

We ourselves have not the slightest authority in the home, church, and the world. All we can do is execute God’s authority, nor can we create authority for ourselves.

(2) For one to be in authority does not depend on his having ideas and thoughts; rather does it hinge on knowing the will of God. The measure of one’s knowledge of God’s will is the measure of his delegated authority. God establishes a person to be His delegated authority entirely on the basis of the knowledge of God’s will.

(3) What we do must come from what we have learned before God and what we say must issue from that which we have experienced of Him. For this reason we must learn to rise high and touch deeply in spiritual things.

B. He must deny himself.

(1) Until one knows the will of God he should keep his mouth shut. He should not exercise authority carelessly. Unless we are completely broken by the Lord we are not qualified to be God's delegated authority. God calls us to represent His authority not to substitute His authority.

(2) God is sovereign in His personality and position. His will is His. He never consults with man nor does He allow anyone to be His counselor. Consequently one who represent authority must not be a subjective person.

(3) Their cleverness, opinion, and thoughts all must be broken. Those who are naturally talkative, opinionated, and self-conceited automatically disqualify themselves.

(4) We are not to express our own views not to itch to interfere with others' affairs. A subjective person has never learned discipline nor have they been seriously dealt with.

C. He must constantly keep in fellowship with God.

(1) Those who are God's delegated authority need to maintain close fellowship (communion) with God. There must be not only communication but also communion.

(2) Anyone who offers opinion freely and speaks in the name of God carelessly is far away from God and does not know Him.

(3) Communion is another principal requirement for one in authority. The nearer one is God the clearer he sees his own faults. He has no confidence in his flesh, he begins to be afraid lest he "err" cause problems within the body. Those who speak casually expose themselves as being far from God.

(4) The fear of God cannot be put on outwardly only those who always wait on the Lord possess this virtue. We must learn to fear God and refrain from doing anything carelessly.

(5) We must live in His presence, commune with Him continuously, and seek to know His mind. Unless I have spoken with God, I have nothing to say to man.

(6) Whenever we wander or stray from God the character of our authority changes.

LESSON 2.B

THE CREDENTIALS FOR DELEGATED AUTHORITY

“Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.” (1 Corinthians 4:5)

1. No delegated authority in the Bible given by God was greater than that of Moses, so we may use him as an example. To examine the required credentials of a delegated authority we will focus on how he reacted when his authority was transgressed, ridiculed, opposed, and rejected.

2. The entire time Moses led the Children of Israel his authority was constantly called into question. Korah and 250 Elders, and even Aaron and Miriam (his own family) challenged his authority. But in spite of all of Moses failures God’s testimony about him was,

“(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.” (Numbers 12:3)

Moses had the right heart condition, he was “meek” and “gentle” that is why God chose him, not because he was educated and strong in battle.

3. There are five critical credentials required to be a delegated authority. Let us look at them:

A. Meekness and gentleness.

(1) God will not delegated his power or authority to an arrogant person. Those who God sets up in authority are the meek and the tender, and this is not ordinary meekness it’s the meekness of God.

(2) The person least likely to be given authority is often the very one who considers himself an authority and least qualified. Likewise, the more authority a person thinks he has, the less he actually does have.

(3) Thus, we should never try to establish our own authority. The more we try the less we are fit for authority. It is given by God and God alone, to the meek and gentle person.

B. Not to listen to slanderous words.

(1) A delegated authority must protect his heart from such things. All who desire to be God’s spokesmen and desire to help people must learn not to listen to slander. Let God do the listening. Do not pay attention to how people criticize you; do not get angry.

(2) Those who are disturbed and overwhelmed by words prove themselves to be unfit to be a delegated authority.

C. Make no self-defense.

(1) Defense or vindication, whatever reaction there may

be should come from God. No one on earth could ever be more in authority than Jesus yet He never defended Himself. The Bible says Jesus, "opened not His mouth" He stood in silence before those who were charging Him with lies.

(2) Authority and self-defense are incompatible they can not exist together. He who justifies or vindicates himself does not know God or His ways.

(3) He who speaks for himself is under judgement. God has appointed you, He does the speaking for you. The moment you justify yourself before men, man becomes your judge. As soon as you try to explain yourself you have fallen before men.

D. No personal feeling.

(1) Those who do not know how to control their heart and lips are not fit to be in authority. In all things we must not involve our emotions, we are to have no personal opinion of our own. We are not to personally judge to punish one for their actions.

(2) Authority is set up to execute God's order not to uplift oneself. The important thing is to help people to be subject correctly to God's authority and justice.

(3) To be a delegated authority is not at all an easy thing, because it requires the emptying of one's self.

E. Revelation.

(1) A man's value before God is not decided by other's judgement nor by his own. He is measured by the revelation he receives from God. Revelation is God's evaluation and measuring stick.

(2) God authority is build on God's revelation and His estimation of a person is according to that revelation.

(3) If God gives revelation is His authority is established and when His revelation is withdrawn the man is rejected and so is His authority.

(4) If we want to learn to be an authority we must pay attention to our relationship before God. If God desires to have communion with us face-to-face no one can eliminate us. But if our communication above is severed, and the heavens are shut, all we do will be for naught.

(5) An open heaven is the seal of God and the testimony of Sonship. Revelation is therefore the evidence of authority.

LESSON 2.C

THE CONDITIONS FOR DELEGATED AUTHORITY

1. The authorities whom God has established in the family are parents in relation to their children, the husband to the wife, and the master in relation to the servant.
2. In the church it is God in relation to Christ, the Pastor in relation to the members/workers and the members/workers in relation to their work.
3. In the world the authorities are the kings in relation to their subjects and the rulers in relation to their subordinates. All of these authorities have their respective conditions.
4. In all we do in God we must meet the conditions of God to obtain what God wants in any given situation. The scheme is hearing, believing, doing, and obtaining. Before we can obtain from God we must meet the conditions of hearing, believing, and doing, correctly.
5. We often times focus on the obtaining, but God does not. We most often concentrate on the promises, but God's ways are not our ways. God is focused on whether or not we have met the condition to receive or obtain the promise. We need to focus on the things and meet the conditions God thinks are important.
6. There are six areas of responsibilities, which each area has conditions to meet, IF one desires to serve as God's delegated authority. If not, they automatically disqualify themselves from that position and the delegated authority that goes with it.

A. Husband

(1) The Bible teaches that wives should be subject to their husbands; yet husbands should exercise authority with a condition. Three times in Ephesians 5 husbands are called upon to;

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;" (Ephesians 5:25)

(2) Undoubtedly there is authority in the family nonetheless those in authority need to fulfill God's requirements.

(3) The love of Christ for the church sets the example for the love which husbands ought to give their wives. If the husband wishes to represent God's authority they must love their own wife. And, if the family gets it right the local church will also.

B. Parents

(1) Unquestionably children must obey their parents, even so, the authority of the parents has its responsibility and condition too. The scriptures say,

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

(Ephesians 6:4)

(2) In spite of the fact that parents do have authority they need to learn how to control themselves before God. They should not deal with their children according to their whims, thinking they have the absolute right to do whatever they want to do.

(3) God has created us and has never ill-treated us. It is wrong to do to children what we would not do to friends, students subordinates, or relatives.

(4) There is a paramount need for parents to control themselves. The objective of all the authority parents have toward their children is to instruct, to bring their children up in the discipline and admonition of God.

C. Masters

(1) Servants ought to be obedient to their masters, yet to be master is likewise conditional. God will not allow His delegated authority to act intemperately. They must have the fear of God.

(2) To be master they must see they too are under authority of God. For this reason they can not be unbridled, arrogant, and intimidating. Their indispensable attitude must be gentleness and love.

D. Pastors

(1) The Pastor is the authority in the local assembly. The Brethren should learn to be subject to the Pastor and those he appoints.

(2) Since the Pastor is set up by God in order to care for the church they themselves need to first know how to obey and come under control that they may be examples to others.

(3) The Pastor is held to the highest standard that is the standard of submission, servanthood, and love for the people.

"But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them.

43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: 44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all." (Luke 10:42-44)

D. Workers

(1) It takes self-discipline to draw respect from others and to qualify oneself as God's representative. A worker must never seek glory and honor from men, but from God alone.

(2) To be in authority is costly, and one needs to be ready for a lonely life, a life of self-sacrifice, and death to one's selfish desire.

LESSON 2.D

THE CHARACTER OF DELEGATED AUTHORITIES

“And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD? 4 And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face.” (Numbers 16:3-4)

1. There can be no rebellion on the part of the Israelites more serious than that which is recorded here in verses. The true character of a delegated authority is seen in Moses’ response to the rebellion, “*And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face:*” This is the verily attitude every servant of God must have.
2. Being truly gentle he was empty of personal feelings. He did not defend himself nor get emotional, but “*fell upon his face:*” Moses did not dare do anything of himself, because he knew God and he knew God would take care of things.
3. Moses displayed three critical areas of the character of God’s delegated authority.

A. Exhortation and Restoration.

- (1) Moses exhorted Korah with words so as to restore him. He knew the seriousness of this matter and was really concerned for the rebellious ones. Restoration is always the goal in the delegated authority toward one who walks in rebellion.
- (2) Exhortation is not an expression of lordliness; rather does it disclose meekness. He who exhorts in return for an attack is truly a meek person.
- (3) But he who allows people to be in the error without any intention of restoring them proves his heart to be hard and callous. To not exhort at such a time would be due to a lack of humility, it would obviously suggest pride.
- (4) Those who represent God’s authority seek for restoration, not division even after they have been rejected.

B. No judging spirit.

- (1) In all of the rebellion and rejection faced there was no judging spirit in Moses. Those who desire to be a judge can never judge righteous judgement. Because their intention or motive is to judge, God’s intention is to give mercy and to restore. The greatest sentence we can be given is mercy, even if we guilty. It is easy to give guilt, but very hard to give mercy.
- (2) The only feelings Moses had was his concern for them sinning against God. Their sin of rebellion was not against Moses, but against God. And, God always shows up to protect His word and His delegated authority.
- (3) Let us understand a very important point about God’s judgement. His judgement is apart of His love. We are to wait on the judgement of God, or wait for God to judge the situation. Our part is to give mercy and forgiveness until God judges.

(4) But, for those who love God, God's love is mercy, longsuffering, and forgiveness. And, those who do not love God, God's love is judgment and punishment. There is always punishment associated with God's judgement.

(5) The way of rebellion leads to loss, destruction, and death. (In that order) The wages of sin is death, but before the man dies, he goes through great loss and destruction in his relationship, in his life. Everything he touches dies. No life can come out of it, only death.

(6) Authority is something which God establishes all who offend His authority despise God in their heart.

C. Intercession and atonement.

(1) Unless one has met the grace of God his inward condition remains the same. God came to judge the rebellion, and told Moses and Aaron to get away from the midst of the people. In the face of God's judgement Moses' heart condition toward the Children of Israel was unswayed, verse 45 says, "*he fell on his face.*"

(2) Three times in chapter 16 Moses falls on his face before God intercession for the people. Moses' spiritual sense was so keen that he knew immediately this problem could not be solved by prayer alone. (3) Moses was certainly fit to be a delegated authority. The word "worship" is translated from the Greek "to bow down the head to the ground" or "to lower one's head in subjection to the ground."

(4) His heart was full of love, compassion, and a strong desire toward intercession and to see their sin atoned.

(5) The atoning grace seen in Moses was astonishingly similar to that seen in Christ. He loved God's people and he bore the responsibility of both the obedient and the rebellious. A person who cares only for himself and who complains of the responsibility he bears for others is unfit to represent God's authority. The way one acts proves what type of person they are.

(6) If we care only for our own feelings we will not be able to bear the problems of God's children. To be gracious and seek intercession and atonement for others is the character of all who are in authority.

LESSON 3

MAXIMS

“And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD? 4 And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face.” (Numbers 16:3-4)

1. Obedience is a foundational spiritual principle.
2. As faith is the principle by which we obtain life, so obedience is the principle by which that life is lived out.
3. The problems facing us in our day are due to men living outside of the authority of God.
4. True service is initiated by God, and when man serves under God’s authority he is thereby accepted.
5. If men are to serve God subjection to authority is an absolute necessity. Obedience transcends our works.
6. Never be so foolish as to think of yourself as almighty.
7. Whoever is gifted has a ministry and whoever has a ministry has authority.
8. Most people want God’s direct authority, but God wants to set up indirect and delegated authority for them to obey.
9. How peaceful it is to accept the restraints of God.
10. To obey is natural; to disobey is difficult.
11. God looks for heart obedience.
12. Rebellion usually manifest itself in words, no matter how light or heavy these words are.

13. All who hearken to God's direct authority, but reject delegated authority are nonetheless operating in rebellion.
14. Two things cause Christians to lose their power: sin and reviling authority.
15. Those who can not control their words can not control themselves.
16. As soon as we meet God our mouth will be under restraint.
17. Human reason is the first cause of rebellion.
18. If we desire to serve God we must not argue.
19. When God exercises authority He has no need to consult us.
20. The way to know God is through obedience.
21. Man's rebellion is basically in his thoughts (plans, intentions).
22. Only the authority of God can take every thought captive to obey Christ.
23. Those captured by Christ are ready to accept God's thoughts.
24. God does not look at how skillfully we preach the gospel or how willingly we suffer for him; He looks to see how obedient we are.
25. God must rule; men must not give counsel.
26. If God does not call you why should you strive.
27. Proud and talkative people are not able to hear God only the meek and quite.
28. If God give revelation authority is established.

29. Revelation is the evidence of authority.
30. We must know ministry comes from resurrection and resurrection comes from God.
31. Whenever we depend on God we have authority.
32. A Christian is concerned with feeling, not reasoning; they deal with truth not with the facts.
33. Learn to humble our self under the mighty hand of God.
34. Learn to wait and to be humble before God.
35. Jesus was not primarily concerned with the cross, He was occupied instead with doing His Father's will.
36. Unless a man is broken life cannot be released.
37. The one who senses their incompetency is the one God gives His authority.
38. May God deliver us from high-mindedness.
39. The path for us is obedience not authority; it is to be servants, not to be heads; to be slaves, not to be masters.
40. Loneliness is a mark of authority.
41. The opposite of holiness is commonness, not sin.
42. To be in authority requires restraint; one must sanctify himself.
43. Holiness means that others may, but you may not.
44. He who is sanctified is God's servant; he who is not sanctified is a common person.
45. The higher the office the stricter are God's demands.

46. The higher the authority the greater the separation.
47. To represent authority is to represent God; and to be in authority is to be an example to all.