



AUTHORITY: MATTHEW 20:20-27

Community Group Study Guide Week of November 24, 2019

We continued our series “Tough & Tender” this week by looking at how to be a Lion and a Lamb in how we wield authority and relate to authority in our lives. Like so many things, authority was corrupted by sin at the fall. God entrusted mankind with authority to bring order, beauty, and flourishing to His creation. The goodness of our derived authority over creation was lost, however, when we rejected God’s authority over us. Instead of causing creation to flourish, human authority is now tinged with corruption and frequently abused for selfish gain.

In Matthew 20:20-27, Jesus corrects his disciples’ view of authority. Although they had been with him for some time, they still had a fallen, worldly, and sinful understanding of authority. Jesus explains that in this world, **corrupted authorities grasp power to serve themselves, even at the expense of others. In contrast, Christlike authorities are given power to serve others, even at the expense of themselves.**

Pastor Jan gave us three images from Jesus’ life and teaching that show us what this Christlike authority looks like.

1. **The Yoke (Matthew 11:28-30):** True Christlike authority submits to the authority of Christ just as Christ submitted to the will of the Father. Christlike authority also honors the derived authorities that God has placed over our lives (in the home, church, workplace, civil government, etc.).
2. **The Cup (Matthew 20:22-23; 26:39):** True Christlike authority always entails humility, sacrifice, and suffering on behalf of those under your authority.
3. **The Towel (John 13:12-26):** True Christlike authority is marked by humble service of others.

With this redeemed picture of authority, we can use the authority we’ve been given to lovingly serve others, joyfully submit to the godly authorities in our lives, and even show humble reverence for the imperfect worldly authorities that God has placed over us. As we do, we show the world the beauty and freedom of living under the good authority of Christ our King.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand the goodness of God’s authority and how it redeems our stewardship of authority.

Heart

To trust that true freedom is not found in a lack of authority, but in submitting to God’s good authority.

Hands

To wield and submit to authority out of reverence to Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership or Baptism:

Contact

admin@mosaicboston.com to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

Mosaic JP:

Please keep Mosaic JP and other faithful Boston church plants in your prayers. If your CG would like to serve Mosaic JP together on a Sunday please contact Pastor Andy at andy@mosaicboston.com.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 20:20-27

- 1) How does Christ change the disciples' views of authority, and why must we understand this before we talk about how to wield and submit to authority?

- 2) Pastor Jan gave us three pictures that characterize Christlike authority. The first is the Yoke (**Read Matthew 11:28-30**). How should this picture shape the way we view Christ's authority, relate to human authority, and wield authority that we've been given?

- 3) The second picture is the Cup (**Read Matthew 20:22-23; 26:39**). How should this picture shape the way we view Christ's authority, relate to human authority, and wield authority that we've been given?

- 4) The third picture is the Towel (**John 13:12-26**). How should this picture shape the way we view Christ's authority, relate to human authority, and wield authority that we've been given?

- 5) How might Christ's vision for authority change the way we relate to authority or wield authority in our places of work, school, church, or the home?

- 6) What are some other practical areas in life where Christ's teaching on authority should shape our thoughts or actions?

- 7) How does the Gospel help us fight the temptation to misuse authority, or to dishonor those who are in authority?

- 8) What else stood out to you about these texts or this week's sermon? Was there anything else you found particularly encouraging, convicting, or challenging?