

The Way of Jesus: Authority of the King

- **Freedom to Study God's Word**
 - Celebrated in prayer: We have unprecedented access today (printed, digital, translations) compared to history (Wycliffe 1380, KJV 1611) and persecuted regions today (e.g., illegal in North Korea).
 - Key truth: "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free" (John 8:32); "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).
 - Prayer emphasis: The Spirit leads into truth; the Word is living and active (Hebrews 4:12) and will accomplish God's purpose (Isaiah 55:11).
- **Jesus' Kingly Authority**
 - **Authority in Calling Disciples** (Mark 1:16-20; Mark 2:13-14)
 - Simon & Andrew, James & John immediately left nets and family business.
 - Levi (Matthew) left his tax booth despite social pressure.
 - Sub-point: This is not mere charisma but royal authority—"Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people."
 - **Authority in Teaching & Healing**
 - Taught with unmatched authority, astonishing crowds (Mark 1:22).
 - Healed Peter's mother-in-law (Mark 1:29-31), crowds, and a leper—showing power over physical realm.
 - Yet prioritized the spiritual: "Son, your sins are forgiven" (Mark 2:5) before physical healing of the paralytic.
- **The Deepest Problem & the Call to Follow**
 - Sin = ignoring/rebelling against God and living without reference to Him (not just "bad things").
 - Jesus as King forgives sins (blasphemy claim by leaders, proving His deity—Mark 2:6-7).
 - Response: Not moderate or crowd-seeking; radical re-alignment: "Put me first. Trust me. Follow me. Whatever the cost."
 - Jesus modeled it by leaving heaven's glory for the cross (Philippians 2:5-8).
 - Goal: Quality response of faith, not just crowds (Mark 1:35-38).
- **Application Today**
 - Church challenges (e.g., property, termites) test our *response*—the real spiritual battle.
 - Our temptations mirror the paralytic: "If only [health/relationships/finances] were fixed..." but Jesus offers Himself as the true satisfaction.
 - Apostles' Creed reminder: We believe in the triune God, forgiveness, resurrection, and declare it in worship.

Quotable Quotes:

- **"The gospel is not about being called to follow advice. It is about being called to follow the king."** (Pastor Missy contrasts the gospel as good *news* of what Jesus has already accomplished, versus religions that offer self-earned advice; it demands total allegiance as King.)

- **"Your true love and your true life is Jesus at the very core of your being."** (In discussing how Jesus knows our deepest desires beyond what we think we want, like the paralytic's healing.)
- **"The real spiritual warfare is... in how we respond."** (Applied to church challenges like property issues and termites, echoing Jesus prioritizing forgiveness of sins over physical healing.)

Questions for Further Thought:

1. In what area of life are you tempted to seek a "fix" first instead of responding to Jesus' call to follow Him fully? How can you realign around trusting Him as King this week? (See Mark 2:1-12)
2. When following Jesus leads through difficulty or "wilderness" (as with the disciples), how does remembering His authority and sacrifice help you keep your eyes fixed on Him? (Mark 1:16-20; Philippians 2:5-11)
3. How does the freedom to study God's Word challenge you personally to be a "hearer and doer" rather than taking it for granted? (James 1:22; John 8:31-32)