

Summary

This sermon uses the analogy of a checker game to illustrate how Christians should live under God's authority. Just as every checker has a crown on top representing the potential to operate in the king's authority, every believer has the potential to operate in God's authority - but only when they allow God's hand to move them rather than trying to control their own moves. The pastor emphasizes that knowing Jesus personally, not just knowing about Him, is essential for living in kingdom authority. Using the story from Matthew 16 where Jesus asks "Who do you say that I am?" and Peter responds "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," the sermon highlights that this revelation must be personal and ongoing, not just a one-time acknowledgment.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You this morning with grateful hearts, knowing that You desire to move in our lives and through our discussion today. We ask that You would open our hearts and minds to receive what You want to teach us. Help us to be honest about where we are in our relationship with You and give us the courage to allow Your hand to guide our next moves. May our time together draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's your favorite board game or childhood game, and what strategy did you usually use to try to win?

Key Verses

1. John 3:30
2. Psalms 103:19
3. Matthew 16:13-18
4. John 14:6
5. Philippians 3:10

Questions

1. In the checker analogy, what does it mean to have 'the king's hand' controlling your moves versus trying to control your own checker?
2. Why do you think Jesus chose to ask the disciples about His identity in Caesarea Philippi, a place known for pagan worship and sin?
3. What's the difference between knowing about Jesus and actually knowing Jesus personally? How can you tell the difference in your own life?

4. Peter's declaration that Jesus is 'the Christ, the Son of the living God' was described as a revelation. How has your understanding of who Jesus is grown or changed over time?
5. The pastor mentioned that we answer the question 'Who do you say Jesus is?' every day through our actions. What do your daily choices and attitudes reveal about who you believe Jesus is?
6. What does it mean practically to live under God's authority while still making daily decisions and choices?
7. Jesus said He would build His church on the 'rock of revelation truth.' What role does personal revelation of Jesus play in the strength of the church?
8. How can we ensure we're allowing God to move us 'across the checkerboard' of life rather than getting stuck in one position or trying to control our own moves?

Life Application

This week, identify one area of your life where you've been trying to control your own 'checker' instead of allowing God's hand to guide you. Spend time in prayer each day asking God to reveal His will for that situation and commit to following His leading, even if it's different from what you would choose.

Key Takeaways

1. Every believer has the potential to operate in God's authority, but only when they submit to His guidance rather than trying to control their own path
2. Knowing Jesus personally through ongoing revelation is essential - it's not enough to just know about Him or rely on past experiences
3. The question 'Who do you say Jesus is?' must be answered personally and is reflected in our daily choices and attitudes
4. God's kingdom operates with power and authority even in the darkest places, and His church is built on the foundation of revealed truth about Jesus
5. Living under God's authority means allowing Him to move us through life's challenges so we can reach our full potential in His kingdom

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the reminder that You want to guide our steps and move us according to Your perfect will. Help us to release control of our own 'checkers' and trust Your hand to lead us. May the revelation of who You are continue to grow in our hearts and transform how we live each day. Give us the courage to submit to Your authority and the faith to believe that Your way is always best. As we go from here, may we live as people who truly know You and operate in Your kingdom authority. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.