

The Authority of the Benevolent King

Matthew 8:5-13

I. God is the great Creator King over his creation.

- A. He has the rights of a King.
 - 1. He has authority to rule.
 - (a) To exercise power.
 - (b) To rule by command.
 - (c) To make decisions that are binding upon his subjects.
- B. God created Adam and delegated authority to him (Gen1:26).
 - 1. Adam was a vassal king, under God as King.
 - (a) They were in covenant (love, loyalty, faithfulness).
 - (b) So, Adam was under authority, and he had authority.
 - (c) Adam's authority was dependent upon staying under God's authority.
 - 2. This required faith, or trust, on Adam's part.
 - (a) He needed to see God accurately.
 - (b) He needed to put his faith in what God said.
 - (c) He needed to trust that God was good.
- C. Satan attacked Adam and Eve like he attacks us.
 - 1. He is a liar and deceiver.
 - 2. He slandered God, lying about God's intentions.
 - (a) He undermined Adam's trust in God.
 - 3. Adam should have fought back.
 - (a) He had authority to pronounce judgment on Satan.
 - (b) Instead, he broke bread with Satan.
 - (c) He allied himself with Satan and was unfaithful.
 - 4. King Adam made a covenant with Satan.
 - (a) As a result, Satan stole Adam's authority.
 - (b) He became "the prince of this world."
 - (c) Adam and his subjects fell under Satan's authority.
 - 5. Why didn't God just pronounce judgment on Satan?
 - (a) Because God honors covenant.
 - (b) If he didn't, he would be unrighteous.
 - (c) If God judged Satan, everyone under him would be lost.

II. Matthew's Gospel emphasizes the arrival of a new King.

- A. Jesus is a Redeemer King, representing Kingdom of God.
 - 1. He was the Son of God, the exact likeness of God.
 - 2. He was the Son of Man, made in the likeness of Adam.
 - 3. Jesus came to redeem, to fix what Adam had broken.
 - (a) To do that he had to succeed where Adam had failed.
 - (b) He had to remain faithful against the same temptations.
 - 4. He was like Adam in all things but sin.
 - (a) He is the 2nd man to represent all of humanity (Rom5:14)
 - (b) So, he is referred to as the second Adam.
 - (c) To be like Adam, Jesus came with self-imposed limitations.

- (d) He was not omnipresent. He was not omniscient.
- (e) As human beings, Jesus and Adam were equal.
- 5. As the second Adam, Jesus was a King.
 - (a) As the Son of Man, he came with the same authority as the original man.
 - (b) He teaches with authority.
 - (c) He drove out demons with authority.
 - (d) He has authority to forgive sins.
 - (e) Even the wind and the waves obey him.

III. Like Adam, we get scared by authority. We feel threatened by it.

- A. We fear that God doesn't want what's best for us.
 - 1. We question his character, his goodness and love.
 - 2. We are tempted to take control, to do it "my way."
- B. We need to remember that King Jesus is good.
 - 1. He is trustworthy. The cross has demonstrated his love!
- C. The centurion understands authority."
 - 1. "I too am a man under authority.
 - 2. But then he speaks of people under his authority.
 - (a) His authority is dependent on being under authority.
 - (b) That was true of Adam and Jesus.
 - (c) That is true of us.
 - 3. Human authority that does not recognize God's authority will become corrupted (ie. Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua).
- D. The centurion came to Jesus with humility.
 - 1. "I am not worthy..."
 - 2. He also came with trust.
 - (a) "Only say the word and he will be healed."
 - (b) He had faith in Jesus' authority.
 - (c) "Just say it and it will be so" (paraphrase).
 - (d) He also trusted in Jesus' goodness.
 - 3. We come to faith in the same way.
 - 4. We need that same balance in following Jesus.
 - (a) Jesus is Lord and he is always good!
- E. How did the centurion respond to authority?
 - 1. He humbled himself toward Jesus (the one over him).
 - (a) He trusted Jesus. Jesus commended him for his faith.
 - 2. Most Roman soldiers weren't known for their compassion.
 - (a) The centurion led with authority (he gave orders)
 - (b) Yet, he was compassionate toward the servant under his authority (the one under him).
- F. In redemption, we were "bought with a price" (Jesus' life).
 - 1. We are his twice, through creation, and through redemption.
 - 2. So, he is our Lord and King! How do we respond to that?
 - (a) "He is Lord of all", not just all people, all of my life.
 - (b) Are there portions of my life that I hold back?
 - (c) Do I feel threatened? Or do I trust that he is good?