



Exploring the Kingdom of God in Matthew: The Authority of Jesus

July 22, 2018

MATTHEW 7:28-29

1. Today we conclude our Sunday study of the greatest sermon every preached, the Sermon on the Mount. We began on July 9, 2018!
2. When we began, we said:

Given Matthew's mandate of demonstrating the *Messiahship of Jesus*, one of the more interesting things about his Gospel is his mention of the "Kingdom." More than any other Gospel writer, Matthew expounds on the Kingdom-nature of Jesus' ministry (he mentions *Kingdom* in over 50 verses) and emphasizes what the Kingdom of God looks like.

The word *kingdom* comes from the Greek *basileia*, which means in this context, "the territory or country subject to a king; an undivided territory under the dominion of a king or monarch."

It follows then that a kingdom has a king! It is widely acknowledged that Matthew is presenting, to a mostly Jewish audience, Christ as Messiah and King. Indeed, from the beginning of his Gospel, Matthew, through a wonderfully complex listing of the Lord's lineage, establishes our Lord's connection to David (Matt 1:6, 17), thus fulfilling the messianic prophecies concerning Israel's ultimate Priest, Prophet, and King!

We emphasized this point because of the current bias, even in the church, **against authority**. No one likes to be told what to do. Nevertheless, we state unequivocally that Christ rules! He is Lord and Lord of all! This is the *nature of Kingdom*; **it has a King and He reigns!**

- Act 2:36 *Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.*
 - Act 10:36 *The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)*
3. We've walked through so many things since then. We've looked at each blessing, or beatitude: being poor in spirit, mourning over sin, being meek, hungry and thirsting after righteousness, becoming more merciful, being pure in heart, and being a peacemaker! We looked at how to handle being persecuted for these things and that we should "rejoice, and be exceeding glad!"
 4. We saw that we are called to be the salt of the earth and lights in the world.
 5. We've studied how our LORD views His own Word and obedience to it.
 6. We read and prayerfully embraced Christ's teachings on a variety of subjects: anger, murder, unrepentant hearts, marriage, adultery, self-denial for holiness sake, oaths, sacrificing for others, loving your neighbor, doing deeds before men, motives and manner in prayer, how to pray, greed vs stewardship, giving, contentment in this life, judgment of others, false prophets, false converts, fruit-bearing! Whew!
 7. Ultimately, we found out that our LORD wants to build our lives on the Rock of His Word!

TODAY'S TEXT:

1. Scripture says after hearing the Sermon on the Mount, the people were astonished, or amazed.

2. Apparently, neither Jesus nor His teaching was like any one or anything they'd heard before.
3. *"Jamieson, Fausset and Brown comment, 'The consciousness of divine authority, as Lawgiver, Expounder and Judge, so beamed through His teaching, that the scribes' teaching could not but appear drivelling in such a light.'"—MacDonald*
4. The word for "astonished" can also mean "to strike out, to expel by a blow." The people weren't just casually interested; they were stunned! They were flabbergasted. They were overwhelmed. They were blown away!
5. Other than affirming again the overwhelming truth of Jesus' authority, one other admonition for us in the Text is affirming our need to be astonished as they were!
6. May I ask, are you still astonished? Do you still tremble and quake when He speaks? Are you still amazed at our LORD's love, mercy, and goodness? Are you still excited about His commands, precepts, and statutes? Is there a growing reverence for the things of God in your heart?

THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS!

1. JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD!

- *Joh 3:16-18 (KJV) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

2. JESUS IS GOD THE SON!

- *Joh 1:1 (KJV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
- *Joh 8:58 (KJV) Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.*
- *Joh 10:30 (KJV) I and my Father are one.*

Jesus Christ our LORD is fully human and fully divine. Having taken on a human nature at the Incarnation, He is forever the God-Man; His perfect humanity being necessary to be our perfect High Priest; His divinity being necessary for His sacrifice to be sufficient for all mankind! Indeed...

- *1Jn 2:2 (KJV) And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

3. JESUS IS THE WORD OF GOD!

- *Joh 1:14 (KJV) And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*
- *Rev 19:11-13 (KJV) And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. 12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.*
- "John begins his Gospel by speaking about *the Word*—but he does not explain at first who or what the Word is. A word is a unit of speech by which we express ourselves to others. But John is not writing about *speech* but rather about a *Person*. That Person is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. God has fully expressed Himself to mankind in the Person of the Lord Jesus. By coming into the world, Christ has perfectly revealed to us

what God is like. By dying for us on the cross, He has told us how much God loves us. Thus Christ is God's living Word to man, the expression of God's thoughts." —MacDonald

4. JESUS IS KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS!

- *Rev 17:14 (KJV) These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings; and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.*
- *Rev 19:14-16 (KJV) And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.*
- All rule and authority belongs to Jesus! He is... "Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come" Eph 1:21 (KJV)

5. JESUS IS THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS!

- *Col 1:15-17 (KJV) Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*
- *Heb 1:1-3 (KJV) God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*
- Let us honor He who spoke and the universe leapt into existence...He who laid the foundations of the earth and the heavens are the works of His hands! (Heb 1:10)

6. JESUS IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH!

- *Col 1:18 (KJV) And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*
- *Eph 1:22-23 (KJV) 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*
- May we always remember and rejoice in the truth that Jesus Christ is the true Bishop and Head of the Church!

I love this!

- *Rev 1:10-11 (KJV) I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, 11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.*

- Rev 1:12-19 (KJV) *And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; 13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; 15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. 16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. 17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: 18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. 19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;*

7. JESUS IS THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD!

- 2Ti 1:7-10 (KJV) *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; 9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, 10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:*
- 1Jn 4:14-16 (KJV) *And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. 16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.*

8. JESUS IS RISEN!

- 1Co 15:1-4 (KJV) *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*
- We do not serve a dead Savior; He is risen, just as He said! He said:
- "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." Rev 1:18 (KJV)
- **"...Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments!" Rev 19:1-2a (KJV)**

9. JESUS HAS ALL POWER AND AUTHORITY!

- Mat 28:18-20 (KJV) *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*
- His power is bigger than our predicaments; His dominion is greater than our difficulties; His divine judgment greater than human judgments! Remember this wonderful truth...

- *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this." Isa 9:6-7 (KJV)*

10. JESUS IS THE JUDGE OF ALL MEN!

- *Joh 5:22-29 (KJV) For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: 23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. 24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. 25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. 26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; 27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. 28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*
- There will come a day where the dead, small and great, will stand before God. And the books will be opened. And another book will be opened, which is the book of life. And the dead will be judged according to those things which were written in the books, according to their works. (Rev 20:12)
- *"And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Rev 20:13-15 (KJV)*

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

May we never forget that *The Gospel of the Kingdom* is first and foremost that Jesus Christ is the King and the Messiah, the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world. (Jn 1:29) It is the declaration that men must repent and believe the Good News that God, in love and mercy, sent His beloved Son to suffer die in our place...that the Father placed His holy wrath upon the Son on the Cross so that those who believe would inherit eternal life.

The Gospel!

Jesus Christ, the Son of God and God the Son, came to this earth through the virgin Mary, revealed the truths of God, lived the perfect life in our place, died on the cross to pay the penalty of sin that we might be brought into relationship with God. He rose again on the third day, and gives eternal life to those He has called, who believe in Him by His grace and through faith. Those who reject Him will spend eternity apart from Him in Hell. At a future date, He will return to complete the restoration of God's creation.

The Gospel of the Kingdom is fundamentally about an eternal inheritance. Indeed, Jesus' Kingdom, at present, is not of this world (Jn 18:36). However, **Jesus' Kingdom also has a "right now but not yet" quality to it.** The Kingdom is coming, **but the Kingdom is also NOW because the Church is in (but not of) the world.** Jesus rules over imperfect creatures and an imperfect creation now; one day He will rule creatures and a creation made perfect!

- So the Gospel of the Kingdom saves us; but it also begins the process of sanctifying us as well!
- It forms us into *Kingdom Citizens*. How many of us really think of ourselves this way?
- It shifts our perspective from the earthly to the eternal (Col 3:1-4)
- It tells us how to represent the King on earth as His ambassadors (2 Cor 5:20)
- It causes us to live like “strangers and pilgrims, abstaining from fleshly lusts that war against our soul...” (1 Pet 2:11)
- But also commands us to live like soldiers, advancing against the enemy and taking ground! (Matt 16:13-19; 2 Tim 2:3)

May we think, preach, and live this way LORD JESUS!

Maranatha! (Our LORD, come!)