



# AUTHORITY

WALK LIKE JESUS WALKED

# **story of authority**

matthew 4

# authority

- Authority is the God-given right and responsibility delegated to believers to act on God's behalf in spiritually ruling over His creation under the Lordship of Jesus.
- Authority is a personal right, given by status or delegation, to assert power whether in the human world or the spiritual realm.
- Authority is the believer's legal right to use the power of God to bring His Kingdom on Earth.

# matthew 4:1–11

*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.””*

# matthew 4:1-11

*Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.”*

# matthew 4:1-11

*Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, ““You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.””*

*Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.*

# temptations

- He does not have full knowledge of what Jesus's mission is.
- Satan is trying to hijack the plan, whatever the plan is.
  - He does not know there is a plan of redemption.
- Satan is trying the same old tricks, searching for information, and doing all that he can to stop Jesus.

# who was first given authority?

- Adam was given dominion over the Earth.
  - **Genesis 1:26:** *Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”*
- Partnering with God, Adam had the authority and legal right to rule over the Earth.

# who was first given authority?

- Satan then deceives the Earth's ruler, Adam, and death enters the world.
  - **Genesis 3:4-6:** *But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.*

# adam fails

- The world that Adam was supposed to rule over would now rule over him.
  - Genesis 3
- When Adam sins, all creation falls and authority is stripped from him to rule the Earth.
- Adam is the representative of humanity and when authority is stripped from him it is stripped from all humanity.

# satan's authority

- From Genesis 3 Satan continues to build his counterfeit kingdom.
  - He leads the rebellion of Genesis 6.
  - The sons of God that are placed over the nations (Deut. 32:8) come under his influence to rebel.
- By the time that Jesus appears it clear that:
  - Satan has a kingdom (Matt. 12:26)
  - He is the ruler of this world (John 14:30) setting in motion Jesus's death.
  - He is the god of the world that blinds the eyes of unbelievers (2 Cor. 4:4)

# first temptation

- Satan is trying to derail whatever Jesus is doing here on Earth, so he goes to his tried-and-true method.
  - He tempts with food.
- He comes at Jesus's most vulnerable point. After 40 days of no food Jesus is hungry.
- Unlike Adam, who did not abide by the words of God, Jesus says that the real bread is the very words of God.

# second temptation

- When Adam failed the temptation in the garden, it brought death.
  - Death is Satan's weapon.
- If Satan can kill Jesus, then the plan fails (or so he thinks).
- "You'll be safe. Angels will come."

# third temptation

- The third temptation is more evidence that Satan ruled the world with stolen authority.
- **Matthew 4:8–9:** *Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”*

# third temptation

- Jesus does not deny that they are Satan's to give.
- Yahweh had already delegated the rule of these nations to spiritual beings after the tower of Babel.
  - **Deuteronomy 32:8–9:** *When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God. But the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage.*

# third temptation

- Satan, the divine rebel, now held these nations under his captivity.
- And he did so legally.
- Now Jesus has a choice, skip the cross, the pain the torture, becoming sin, and all of it.

# the plan

- Because a man gave away authority, a man must win it back.
- We see throughout the OT that no one was capable of doing that.
- Only God can win authority back by breaking death's grip.
- So Jesus must come as fully God and fully man in order to win back what was lost.

# death

- Jesus does this by taking Satan's greatest weapon, death, and using it against him.
  - **Hebrews 2:14–15:** *Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.*

# death

- Satan thought he succeeded in killing Jesus, but he didn't realize the reality He did not kill Jesus, Jesus died willingly.
  - **John 10:17–18:** *For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.*”
  - **1 Corinthians 2:7–8:** *But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*

# the plan of redemption

- By His death on the cross Jesus takes our sin.
- By his resurrection He conquers death and Satan.
- He fulfilled the mission agreed to before the foundation of the world, the plan of redemption.
- In defeating death and ascending to the Father, Jesus now has all authority.

# authority

- Colossians 2:13–15: *And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. [Jesus]*

# authority

- Daniel 7:13–14: *“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.*”

# authority

- *Matthew 28:18–20: And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

# what does it mean

- The cross is bigger than we can ever imagine.
  - It is not just about salvation, but about redeeming all creation (Rom. 8) and defeating the powers of darkness, reclaiming what Adam lost.
- Because Jesus has authority, Satan can try and try to stop the Kingdom from advancing, but he loses.
  - The way some Christians talk it seems they have lost hope in Christ's victory.

# what does it mean

- If Jesus has authority, then He can give authority to whom He chooses.

# reflection

- How can God's plan of redemption work itself out in your life?
- Is there any place you are struggling and need the authority of Jesus to work power in your life?
- If the church under the authority of Jesus, wins in the end then what is your role?