Kingdom & Authority

Brent Moody · Ephesians 1:15–23

INTRODUCTION

- It's just not something that we really enjoy … focusing on the idea of a reigning power, of an authority, of a monarch, one to whom we have to submit fully.
- The starting point is understanding authority itself first, understanding where authority, where the source of authority comes from and what that actually means for us, what that should look like.
- When you revolt from a king and you start a new nation, you have a little bit of problem with monarchy.

1 Admitting Our Struggle With Authority

- The starting point for all of this is really this first concept that we admit our own struggle with the concepts of authority.
- Admitting the need for humility and being willing to challenge my own thinking, my own presuppositions, not coming preloaded with what I already believe to scripture.
- Willing to come with an open heart and an open Bible to look at what scripture actually says.

2 Two Directions in Rejecting Corrupt Authority

- Because humans are flawed and human authority is flawed, which is where some of the struggle that we have sometimes with authority comes from.
- We can go one way where we think that man and man's wisdom knows best, or we can go the other where we turn back to scripture and we turn back to God.
- The other side of this is a sectarian mindset. You know, idolizing tradition, defending party at all cost.
- The only thing that actually matters is what's in here and what these words say.
- The measure, as we're kind of working toward, is what Christ says.

3 Christ: A Righteous, Absolute Monarch

Isaiah 9:6–7; Isaiah 11:1–5; Psalm 2:1–12

- The picture we have in Scripture and the language we have in Scripture all points to one person who has absolute power and authority.
- As bad as it can be with evil tyrants, those who have absolute power and nobody can stand in their way, that's how good it will be with Christ as absolute authority.
- He is a righteous and just, absolute monarch who has our best interests in mind, and he doesn't need our help to figure any of this out.

- For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders, and his name shall be called wonderful counselor, mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- Kiss the son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

4 The Importance of a Heart of Submission

Ephesians 5:8–10; Ephesians 5:17; Matthew 28:18–20

- What we need to understand is the importance of having a heart of submission.
- Walk as children of light, for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true.
- And try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. That's the goal.
- These are the king's edicts. This is the story he wants us to read. This is the message he wants us to see.
- All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, … teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
- And so I want us to understand as king, one who has all authority, details matter.

THE CHALLENGE

You give your life to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. And then you listen to them. You observe their commands to the end of the age.

MY NOTES