



Sermon on the Mount
Wk. 33 The Authority of Jesus"
By Pastor Jody May 04/13/2025

[CALL TO HEAR]

Matthew 7:28-29 ESV

The Authority of Jesus

²⁸ And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, ²⁹ for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

**Pastor – "People of God, this is the Word of God."
People – "Thanks be to God."**

Pray

Illustration

Have you ever been around someone that commands respect without ever saying why you should? It is usually based in our world out of a respect for something they were good at, usually coupled with a dominant male persona, but the influence usually extends out only in confines of their social circles. I had three guys like this in my life growing up.

One was my dad. I would hear stories of his short temper from my family, I heard the stories of his feats of manliness from his brothers and acquaintances, but I also saw that my dad had friends that were very loyal to him and loved him. I saw it in people that would stop by and visit him (he never visited others, they came to him), I saw it in the eyes of the men he worked with, I heard how those in our social circles would talk with him. You either liked my dad or you didn't, and it was the same with him, you were either liked or not, he didn't have a lot of room for tolerance. My dad had this air of authority that kind of said you need him more than he needed you. I do not idolize that about him, he was a sinner in that, I just recognize that about him.

Another was one of my mentors when I became teacher, his name was Carl Haines, or more affectionately aka "Dr. Death" ☺ by the UF football team. Carl was the backbone of Forest Hill Elementary, and its' front and last line of



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defense. If there was trouble on the walkie Coach Haines was called, if there was a child out of control, he came a running, if there was a parent forgetting their place in a public setting making demands on teachers and administration coach was always there to put them into their place. He was even there for the staff on the weekends working as an irrigation and maintenance man for people showing me how to make money on the side. Wherever coach Haines went there went with him this innate authority.

The last example like this was my old Pastor, Jim Summers. He was a spitfire of a preacher of which Heather remembers him by being afraid to move when he preached and a little traumatized by his red-faced complexion he had when proclaiming God's Word. Pastor Summers though away from the pulpit, was a very soft-spoken southern gentleman but during his tenure at NW Baptists Church, he got things done. Unlike what I find in the typical SBC churches in the south the Deacons did as Pastor Summers asked and worked under his leadership to expand their Christian school, promoted the largest multi-ethnic SBC church in America, and worked to defend the Doctrines of Grace in the late 70s/early 80s when he was personally attacked by fellow pastors calling Calvinism and him evil. Pastor Summers had that quality of saying something to you and you understood that it was to be done.

All of these men had faults though just like us and sometimes depended more on their reputations to get things done than their ability to communicate. But they all shared that quality that through their professionalism in their selected fields, their no-nonsense attitudes, and notoriety in their social groups, they had an air of authority about them that stood out. What that brought with it is that when things got tough, when they were called into the fires of panic with those they did life with, along with them came a sense of calm, making people believe it was going to be alright, whether that was real or not. They weren't saviors by any long means, **they were just reflections** of what we all truly desire. **Someone that comes in with authority, makes the calls, calms the chaos, and makes it all work out.**

Introduction

Today, in our last 2 verses of the SoM, and by now you are probably like, "Jeez you're stretching this thing out aren't you pastor?" I wanted to show you that



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Jesus was that type of person that knew what it meant to be in charge, to hold sway over people, but it extended far past his circle of social relationships. His beliefs on why you should follow His commands went far beyond just an earned reputation but that He spoke with the authority that left you no option but to follow Him. For us the Christian to see our master in control, always and in all circumstances, should bring us rest, should allow us to sleep better at night, should cause us not to question His directions, should cause us not to worry, for He has everything under His control.

We begin to see that persona of our Lord here at the end of the SoM.

The Authority of Jesus

²⁸ And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were **astonished** at his teaching, ²⁹ for he was teaching them as one who had **authority**, and not as their scribes.

The word *astonished*, ἐκπλήσσομαι (ekplēssomai), to be greatly astounded, be amazed¹, to leave speechless, all three synoptic Gospel writers used this word to describe the *teachings of Jesus*. This is the only time Matthew uses this word by which he highlights the lostness of the crowd, their captivity to Pharisee traditions, their slavery to the Sanhedrin, the fact that Jesus overrode all of it by 'how' He talked, alludes to their bleak situation. They were amazed that this one man, born of a lowly carpenter, from a low-life place like Galilee, with no pedigree, with no teacher, with no relationships among the Pharisees, He spoke as if He had authority. He spoke in a way to right the wrongs, to defend the weak, to take up the cause of the needy and lowly, to bring clarity to life, to free men from oppression, and He did it in a way that brought enlightenment to the people. Could He really be the one that was to come to set the captives free? Is He the one that John the Baptist had been preparing the way for? Isn't this what we all want, **someone that comes in with authority, makes calls, calms chaos, and makes it all work out.**

What were those things that caused such astonishment?

¹ **1742** ἐκπλήσσομαι (ekplēssomai), ἐκπλήσσω (ekplēssō): vb.; ≡ Str 1605—LN 25.219 **be greatly astounded**, be amazed, be astonished (Mt 7:28; Mk 1:22; 7:37; Lk 2:48; 4:32; 9:43; Ac 13:12; Mk 6:51 v.r.) James Swanson, [*Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)*](#) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).



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5:12 – Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. – He makes the claim the very thing that the Pharisees say that they are more favored than you, He says 'no', the fact you are persecuted for God's sake means you are favored and will be rewarded. That message is the exact opposite of the Pharisees.

5:12 – You are the Salt.

5:14 – You are the Light.

5:17 – I have come to fulfill the law.

5:21-43 – You have heard. They were wrong (Pharisees), at the center of the law is a heart that loves others not way to discard others.

6:1 – Beware of practicing righteousness to be seen. – don't be like your teachers.

6:5 – Don't pray like hypocrites – like your teachers.

6:16 – Don't fast like hypocrites – like your teachers.

7:1 – Don't judge others except when you first judge yourself rightly.

7:12 – So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law of the Prophets.

All of that came from Christ, from His own personhood, making the claim that He had it figured out. This persona would follow Him all His days and when He walked into Jerusalem on Holy week you can see He never changed His mind. In fact, I believe He went out of His way, to show how indeed He had the authority to do what He did, and for those that believe in Him they will find their rest. So, by the time we get to the end of His ministry, when we see Him and remember this week when He walks down the Via Dolorosa / The Way of Suffering I want you to remember this point.

MP:

The authority of Jesus is not to be ignored but commands belief.

Jesus' life, His teachings, His death, all were empowered by His belief in who He was, and it calls us to put our Faith in this man, for **He has the answers!** In Him alone is the one man that comes with authority and confidence enough that you can find rest in His presence, isn't that what we all want!? Now let us go look at His last week, His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and let us see where Jesus is really getting His ideas of authority from.



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The Authority of the King.

Matthew 21:1-5 ESV

21 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, '**The Lord needs them,**' and he will send them at once." ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

⁵ "Say to the daughter of Zion,
'Behold, your **king** is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

And where does Jesus get this idea that overrides personal ownership, autonomy, and liberty of the individual!?

Zechariah 9:9 ESV

The Coming King of Zion

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your **king** is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Jesus speaks with the authority of a King, and not just any king but the King of Kings. The long-awaited descendant of David, and because He is Israel's King, He is also God's chosen King for the world. Not only that, because He is a descendant of Noah that makes Him our King by way of Adam. Jesus saw Himself not as needing our permission 'to do', but gives commands that must be obeyed.



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Family, here's the deal if you believe in Jesus today, that person with that colt 2K years ago, His position riding into Jerusalem is no different for us now. When Jesus calls for our possessions, when He calls for our attention, when He calls for our submission, when He calls for our loyalty, it is not something you reason about, you do it!

Something to think about today before we move on, we don't have farm animals anymore but what we do have, all belongs to the Lord. Are we waiting for special invites to use our resources for His sake or do we view them as already His and we are looking to put into play His things for His glory? It is the parable of the talents ([Mat 25:14-30](#)), you already have the command, invest what you have now for the Kingdoms sake or lose what you have. Family I love you, but I to strongly encourage you to start looking at your things in a way that says, *where MUST I put these things to use for Christ!*

The Authority of the Priest.

Matthew 21:12-13 ESV

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

¹²And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. ¹³He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers."

And where does Jesus get this idea that He's in charge of the temple, that He regulates our worship, that He determines what is a worthy sacrifice?

Psalms 110:4 ESV

The LORD has sworn

and will not change his mind,

"You are a **priest** forever

after the order of Melchizedek."

Jesus also has this authority that traditionally moved out of the authority of the King in the OT, and into the realm of the Priest. They had a separation of powers just as we do in our governmental system. The Priest was the one



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that took care of administering Mercy to the people, but it was never permanent, it was always short-lived, and needless to say priests were never perfect. Which meant the effectiveness of your forgiveness was based on the effectiveness of the priest.

But Jesus came and as the fulfillment of the priest clears out the temple. With a zeal that overcame Him ([Psalm 69:9](#)) He cleared out the place where the Gentiles could come to worship. He got rid of all the hindrances for worship, and then that week taught from those very steps the way of the Kingdom, so that even the Greeks could hear him, so they would know the way of Salvation. We are told in Hebrews 7 that his all made Him the, *guarantor of a better covenant* ([Heb 7:22](#)). He even foretold, as the one that would end the Old Covenant, when *Temple life* would all come to an end ([Mat 24:1-2](#)).

This priest told of in Psalm 110, what He would do would last forever, and Jesus believed it. What He taught would do away with the barriers between us and God, fully empowering us with the ability to pray as He taught us in the SoM, *to call God **Father***. No more sacrifices, no more separation from God, we are able to come before the throne of God, all based in the authority of Christ.

Family, some of us today we like to think we claim we believe in the Priesthood of Christ and yet we live as if we are OT covenant thinkers. We view the cross as a reminder of our guilt of which it is, but you neglect to add it as a reason to worship our redeemer. Love for Christ and the ability to live holier lives means you accept that **only** His sacrifice would do, and you live in peace because you actually believe He fixed the conflict between God and man once and for all. **Will you come back next week full of joy to worship a risen God, or will you return in fear because of the sin you still see in our life?** Every week we come together should be in joy over our eternal priest for our debts have been paid once and for all!

The Authority of the Prophet.

Matthew 21:23-27 ESV

The Authority of Jesus Challenged



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²³ And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

Jesus saw Himself as the one that would come after Moses that would be like Him ([Det 18:18](#)). He doesn't answer the question as to who's authority He speaks by, for His authority is given by God's Word, and the rightful teaching of it. Moses gave the Ten Commandments, but Jesus lived them perfectly. Moses set up the leaders of the tribes of Israel and Jesus fired them. Moses gave the people all of the Torah, and Jesus taught us it is the heart of the person when they live it out that matters.

Family I just wanted us to get a sense from Holy Week, as you read through it in your homes, that Jesus rode into Jerusalem with the same authority causing the same sense of bewilderment as He did in the SoM. Are we astonished, do our reactions to Him move us from astonishment into acceptance, does acceptance cause us to worship? Jesus believed He was the man with all the answers for our need for a Savior, **He believes He was the Prophet, Priest, and King, as foretold in the OT**, does He bring a sense of peace and relief to you?

Just a couple of more observations this morning, on what makes Him so glorious, it is in how He uses His authority.

Jesus uses His authority to deliver on the plans of God.

Matthew 26:1-5 ESV
The Plot to Kill Jesus



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26 When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, ²"You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."

³Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, ⁴and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. ⁵But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people."

Jesus knows where His authority would lead Him. He didn't play into their hands they played into His. He knew His authority was a threat to them, he knew it would trigger jealousy, envy, covetousness, and in the end murderous intent. That's a man in charge, He doesn't use His power to run from a fight He uses that power to pick fights, the fights that are about sticking up for the person that needs Him, the fights that good shepherd walks into knowing the high cost.

Why does He allow them to take Him?

Christ Came to Fulfill the Law
Matthew 5:17-18 ESV

¹⁷"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to **fulfill them**. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until **all is accomplished**.

Matthew 26:55-56 ESV

⁵⁵At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. ⁵⁶But all this has taken place that the **Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled**." Then all the disciples left him and fled.

The man with all the answers you see has to be able to endure desertion, He can't fold under pressure, the one that believes so much in God's plan, has to live it out for all to believe, even in the dark moments. To fulfill ALL the OT means that Jesus has to accept Isaiah 53, the suffering servant as well. I am



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glad aren't you, that Jesus was that type of man. When that type of person shines through even your enemies will have to testify, perhaps unknowingly.

Authority testified to by people that hated Him.

Matthew 26:63-64 ESV

I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."

⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Matthew 27:11 ESV

Jesus Before Pilate

¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so."

We see the authority of Jesus as He even prophesied about Himself, John 10:18 – **"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."**

Matthew 27:46-50 ESV

⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

⁴⁷ And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah."

⁴⁸ And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹ But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." ⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice **and yielded up his spirit.**

This man's authority even went as far as to reach death's ear, He will give up His life only when He is ready. Is that not astonishing to you, the fact that death can't touch Him, unless He allows it? If so, I want you to see one more thing here from Holy week, and I want you to hear it with the full weight and authority of Jesus, from Him to you, as our prophet, priest, and king.



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John 19:30 ESV

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "**It is finished,**" and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Family, I know the week before Easter always hits me hard too, but I want you to hear the Gospel of the Lord in His last words before He gave up His life to you and I across time, **IT IS FINISHED!**

We are to adhere to no other teaching but His, He is our Prophet.

We are to have no religious barriers between us and Him, he is our Priest.

We are to have no other loyalties before Him, He is our King.

We are to have no other gods before Him, He is our Lord God!

Listen to Him **not** as an unknown teacher on the back side of Galilee but take heed to the one that conquered the cross. "**IT IS FINISHED**", your sins are forgiven, your debt has been paid, now live in His Kingdom, and be astonished by this man's authority to bring you the peace between God and man that you always wanted.

MP:

The authority of Jesus is not to be ignored but commands belief.

[CALL TO OBEY]

Again, I go back to that central theme of the SoM: "Do unto other as you would have them do unto you." Bring to others the person that commands the deeps, the person that brings peace.

Invite someone to church this week.

Read the stories of Holy Week with your family and marvel at Jesus' authority.

Believe it is finished when doubt, concern, sadness, creep into your life this week, recall and ask yourself, since it is finished, what does that mean for your life right now?

Then let us worship next week the God-Man that has done it all.



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Prayer

Communion

Matthew 26:26-29 ESV

²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus. Since we would not believe and obey the Words of God Jesus came as the Living Word of God. He lived a life of obedience so we would be able to be obedient, He lived a life of sacrifice so we would want to be sacrifice for Him. He lives proving His authority so we would know we can have life in Him. Praise be to Him for His wonderful effort.

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood. This week we will remember a little more fully that the cross was necessary to pay for our sins. By His wounds family we all are healed, by His blood we all are made clean, by His authority we the captives are set free! Praise be to Him for His wonderful love!

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]

* The Congregation will stand

Elder – "Christians, what do we believe?"

Congregation - LBCF 1689 8.1 Christ the Mediator



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God was pleased, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, according to the covenant made between them, to be the mediator between God and humanity.¹ God chose him to be prophet,² priest,³ and king,⁴ and to be head and savior of the church,⁵ the heir of all things,⁶ and judge of the world.⁷ From all eternity, God gave to the Son a people to be his offspring. In time these people would be redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified by him.⁸

1Isaiah 42:1; 1 Peter 1:19, 20. 2Acts 3:22. 3Hebrews 5:5, 6. 4Psalms 2:6; Luke 1:33. 5Ephesians 1:22, 23. 6Hebrews 1:2. 7Acts 17:31. 8Isaiah 53:10; John 17:6; Romans 8:30.

[OFFERING+LAST SONG]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that has given us His only begotten Son full of Authority, now let us listen to Him.

Go in the name of the Son, that lived as our prophet, priest, and king, to bring us into eternal peace.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that open our eyes to His authority, calling us to obey in love, and propelling us to share this good news.



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