

The Gospel According to Matthew pt 14

(Having Authority)

Our assignment for this study, was to read Matthew 5,6,and 7 as a whole, praying for the Lord's blessings, to open the Scriptures to our hearts, and to enlightening our understanding of His Truths!

A summary of the Sermon on the Mount; Matt. 5,6, & 7

Read with me if you will Matthew 7:28-29

“the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes”. Some of the old translations include “Pharrasiees” at the end of that sentence.

The word **“astonished”** literally means Amazed, awe struck. I recall another time when some folks were, **“astonished”** at His Words; (Luk 2:41-47) **Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.**

I remember my Amazement, my astonishment, when I first heard the Word of truth, how God manifested Himself in the flesh, and because of His eternal Love, He Shed His own Blood for me!

But there was much more that I had heard! I heard this One who loved a people and gave Himself for them, had all power, all authority, He was The God-Man, Jesus The Christ! The Messiah! The Creator of all that is; **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made”** (Joh 1:1-3). **“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”** (Joh 1:14).

Mark uses these same words Matthew uses yet of another time; (Mar 1:21-22) **And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught. And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.**

Luke describes it this way; (Luk 4:31-32) **And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days. And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.**

Lord willing, in our future studies, we will break down this sermon The Lord Jesus brought on that mountain that day, considering the difference between the way the Scribes taught, and the way He taught. But for today let's focus on **“for his word was with power”, “For he taught them as having authority”**.

I have said this before and say it again, *“the first time in my life, I heard the Gospel, the message was clear of one who truly deserved to be called God! I heard of the one who has all power, all authority, and nothing can stay His Hand!”*

After Mark wrote what he was inspired to write there in chapter 1, he recorded a Miracle of the Lord to show the Lord's authority!

(Mar 1:23-27) And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth?

art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him. And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.

Here we see clearly what is the totality of our Savior's dominion, especially in the exercise of His saving grace. In this portion of Holy Scripture we see that our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, truly is "God over all." Sickness and disease, Satan and the demons of hell, sin and death all flee at His word. **"With authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him."**

"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (1Jn 3:8). And here we see our Redeemer, the Holy One of God, destroying the works of the devil in the life of a chosen sinner by His omnipotent grace. That poor soul in the synagogue portrays fallen man under the dominion of Satan. God's elect, like all others, are by nature **"children of wrath"**.

(Eph 2:1-3) And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Yet, on the sabbath day, this poor soul came to the house of God. There he sat, as Satan's helpless captive, until the Lord Jesus met him in His house and delivered him by His almighty grace, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy; **"Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? But thus saith the LORD, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered:**

for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children. And I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh; and they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine: and all flesh shall know that I the LORD am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob” (Isa 49:24-26).

At the very approach of our Savior, the unclean spirit in that poor wretch trembled, knowing that the Lord Jesus possesses all power and authority, even over Satan himself, as **“the Holy One of God.”**

The demons Know Christ as God in the flesh, they know; **“For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily”** and when the Lord’s day of love comes for each of His chosen, Blood bought people we are assured of this as well, causing us to see and know; **“And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it” (Col 2:9-15).**

What confidence believing souls ought to have in such a Savior!

No weapon formed against us can prosper (Isa 54:17) **No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.**

No temptation can destroy us (1Co 10:13) **There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.**

And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under our heals shortly (Rom 16:20) **And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.**

He who loved us and gave Himself for us is the absolute, Sovereign Monarch of the universe. We may safely trust Him. He is too wise to err, too good to do wrong, and too strong to fail.

(Mat 28:18) **And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**

He “**is the head of all principality and power**” as we read a moment ago in Colossians.

(Rom 11:33-36) **O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.**

Is this not the prayer of His saints, those who have experienced His Grace? Do we not have this desire, that by His power, others will come to Him as He has purposed?

The Apostle Paul had this same desire, and when the Lord blessed him with knowledge of those who had the gospel preached to them and were converted, the Spirit inspired Paul to write;

(Eph 1:15) **Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,**

(Eph 1:16) Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

When we discover a work of God's grace in other people, it always leads us to two special responses:

1. We give thanks to God for them because this life and love in them is not a product of their merit but the gift of God.
2. We pray for them; **“Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you” (1Sa 12:23).**

In these next verses Paul gives us a summary of his prayers to God on their behalf.

(Eph 1:17-19) That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

That the eyes of your understanding may be flooded with light and understanding’ – that you might see

1. the sinfulness of sin,
2. the insufficiency of your own righteousness, and
3. the beauty, glory and suitableness of Christ as our Redeemer and Lord.

that we might see this power of God in our conversion and faith, the power that regenerated us, the power of God that raised us from the dead and formed Christ in us;

“And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it” (Col 2:13-15).

Back in (Eph 1:20) Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

This power of God that quickened us and made us to live spiritually is compared with that power which raised Christ from the dead. Christ was raised for our justification as our Representative. We live because He lives, and we are free from sin because Our Surety, who bore our sins, is now free from them. But there is a likeness between his resurrection and our quickening.

1. His resurrection is called a begetting. He is the first-begotten from the dead. Our regeneration is termed a begetting (1Pe 1:3) **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**
2. His human body was lifeless, as natural men are without spiritual life.
3. His human body could not raise itself, as we cannot give ourselves life.
4. His resurrection was the pure, unaided work of God, as is our regeneration (Eph 2:1) **And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.**
5. His resurrection led to his exaltation at the right hand of God and is where in our representative (Christ) we who are regenerated are already seated! (Eph 2:6) **And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus .**

(Eph 1:21-23) 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: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Christ, our Lord, because of His finished Work, is exalted far above all rule or authority, He is above all power and dominion in heaven, earth, or hell, and above every name that is named or title that can be conferred in this world or the world to come.

(Col 1:16-18) 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: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist;

(Php 2:8-11) And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

He has authority over all, especially His church! Christ has all authority
(Joh 17:2) As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

Christ is the supreme Head of His church. This headship is an honorable, glorifying gift to Him as Mediator. But it is also a grace gift to the church, for He rules for our good; **(Rom 8:28-25) And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.**

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

These are the inspired words of God who has all Authority! He performs all offices for our salvation and He communicates all good things to us; **“O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth”** (Psa 8:9).