

1. What is Authority?

1. Definition:

- . Authority... *Gk... exousia*.... Authority is the legal right to exercise rule over, exercise power
- . Authority is the ability and power to enforce laws, require obedience, the right to command or to act, or to make final decisions

2. Example: the Centurion

- . Mat 8:9 For I also am a **man under authority**, having **soldiers under me**. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."
- . Mat 8:10 When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"
- . The Centurion was a man who was "under authority", submitted to a higher authority
- . He could be sent anywhere the Roman System required him to go and to serve
- . He also had authority over soldiers that were under his command
- . His authority gave him the right to command them

3. What is Authority?

- . **Authority is the legal ability to decide what should be done and to make it happen**
- . Authority follows a pattern of three parts
 - . Decision... (The will of the person in authority)
 - . Command (The person directs what will happen)
 - . Action (There is a response of obedience)

4. Two Principle types of Authority

- . Authority takes two main forms

1. Imposed Authority

- . This is authority that is imposed from above by force and power
- . The person under authority has no choice . They are forced to comply
- . Imposed authority is the characteristic of Satan's Kingdom. It destroys freedom

2. Free Will Authority

- . This authority is created by voluntary submission of the people who chose to be under authority
- . It is never enforced by power and coercion
- . The person making the decision and issuing the command allows people freedom to choose if they will obey or not
- . Free Will authority is the characteristic of the Kingdom of God, because God refuses to impose His authority by force. It preserves freedom.

5. Delegated Authority

- . **God who is the Ultimate source of Authority has Delegated authority along with responsibilities or assignment to men**

◦ **Definition:**

- . Delegated authority is authority that has been obtained from another who has authority
- . It is authority assigned to a person to act on behalf of another
- . Ultimate authority remains with the person in charge, and he can withdraw authority at any moment he chooses

◦ **Example: The Centurion (Matt.8)**

- . The Centurion exercised delegated authority
- . He was an ordinary person but he had been delegated command over 100 soldiers
- . The delegated authority gave the Centurion authority over people in Judea
- . His authority gave him power to act on behalf of Rome

II. **What is The Purpose of Authority**

1. **Everything God does is for a Purpose**

- Eph 1:11 *In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,*
- God is never random. Everything He does is for a purpose
 - . God has chosen to limit His actions and to delegate authority to people
 - . When God delegates authority he always has a **responsibility** attached to it
 - . Responsibility and authority are always interrelated
 - . Even evil people serve the purpose of God (Rom.9:17)

2. **What Authority is Not for**

- Luk 22:24 *Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.*
- Luk 22:25 *And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are **called 'benefactors.'**"*
- Luk 22:26 *But **not so among you;** on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. NKJV*
- Mat 20:25 *Jesus, knowing their thoughts, called them to his side and said, "Kings and those with great authority in this world rule oppressively over their subjects, like tyrants.*
- Mat 20:26 *But this is not your calling. You will lead by a completely different model. The greatest one among you will live as the one who is **called to serve others,***
TPT
- **Jesus exposed the way authority is misused by people who seek it or who have it**
 - . Two of Jesus disciples had gone with their mother to Jesus with a request
 - . Their mother requested that Jesus give her sons the highest positions of honour in His coming Kingdom
 - . All Jesus disciples had argued who would be greatest in the Kingdom, all seeking to promote themselves

◦ **Jesus Response: "*It shall NOT be so among you*"**

◦ **Authority is Not for:**

- . Dominating or controlling people
- . Personal status
- . Personal Gain

- . Self Promotion
- . Advancing own personal interests

3. **What Authority Is For Jesus Directive**

- Mat 20:26 But this is **not your calling**. You will lead by a completely different model. The greatest one among you will live as the one who is **called to serve others**,
Mat 20:27 because the greatest honor and authority is reserved for the one with the heart of a servant.
Mat 20:28 For even the Son of Man did not come expecting to be served by everyone, but to serve everyone, and to give his life in exchange for the salvation of many.”
- **Jesus made it clear Authority is for Serving**

◦ **The Purpose of Authority (Entrusted in the Kingdom of God)**

- . Represent the King ...reveal His character and nature ...(Lk.10:19)
- . Advance His Kingdom (Lk.9:1-2)
- . Serve the King and His people (Matt.20:26)
- . Guard and protect what has been entrusted (Gen.2:15)
- . Cultivate what has been entrusted (Gen.2:15)
- . Discipline and order (2Cor.13:10)
- . Overcome Spiritual opposition (Lk.10:19)

II. **The Misuse and Abuse of Authority**

1. **The Misuse of Authority**

- **What is meant by Misuse of Authority?**
 - . “Misuse”...to use wrongly or unlawfully, to mistreat, to treat badly or harshly
 - . To misuse authority is to use authority for ones own personal gain and not to serve others

◦ **An Example: King Saul**

- **King Saul failed to complete the assignment entrusted him by God**
 - . 1Sa 15:17 So Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?"
 - . 1Sa 15:18 Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.'
 - . 1Sa 15:19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?"
 - . 1Sa 15:20 And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.
 - . 1Sa 15:21 But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal."
- **King Saul used His role and position to enhance himself and establish his own Kingdom**
 - . 1Sa 8:10 So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who asked him for a king.

1Sa 8:11 And he said, "This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots.

1Sa 8:12 He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots.

1Sa 8:13 He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers.

1Sa 8:14 And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants.

1Sa 8:15 He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants.

1Sa 8:16 And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work.

1Sa 8:17 He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants.

1Sa 8:18 And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the LORD will not hear you in that day."

Five ways that People Misuse Authority:

- . To dominate and control people
- . To establish personal identity
- . To establish personal value or worth
- . To exploit people for personal gain or benefit
- . To establish their own personal kingdom
- . The misuse or abuse of authority always opens the door to demonic oppression

The Abuse of Authority

What is meant by Abuse of Authority?

- . "Abuse".....to hurt or injure by treating harshly or badly, to use excessive force, to maltreat esp physically or sexually
- . To abuse authority is to use authority to injure or hurt people intentionally

An Example: King Rehoboam

King Rehoboam rejected wise counsel to serve people, and chose to treat them harshly

- . 1Ki 12:3 that they sent and called him. Then Jeroboam and the whole assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying,

1Ki 12:4 "Your father made our yoke heavy; now therefore, lighten the burdensome service of your father, and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you."

1Ki 12:5 So he said to them, "Depart for three days, then come back to me." And the people departed.

1Ki 12:6 Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived, and he said, "How do you advise me to answer these people?"

1Ki 12:7 And they spoke to him, saying, "If you will be a servant to these people today, and serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."

1Ki 12:8 But he rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the young men who had grown up with him, who stood before him. 1Ki 12:9 And he said to them, "What advice do you give? How should we answer this people who have spoken to me, saying, 'Lighten the yoke which your father put on us'?"

1Ki 12:10 Then the young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you should speak to this people who have spoken to you, saying, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you make it lighter on us'—thus you shall say to them: 'My little finger shall be thicker than my father's waist!'"

1Ki 12:11 And now, whereas my father put a heavy yoke on you, I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!" "

1Ki 12:12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had directed, saying, "Come back to me the third day."

1Ki 12:13 Then the king answered the people roughly, and rejected the advice which the elders had given him;

1Ki 12:14 and he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!"

1Ki 12:15 So the king did not listen to the people; for the turn of events was from the LORD, that He might fulfill His word, which the LORD had spoken by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

The Kingdom Divided

1Ki 12:16 Now when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying: "What share have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Now, see to your own house, O David!" So Israel departed to their tents.

Ten Ways People Abuse Their Authority

- . **Control....**Using intimidation, humiliation or coercion to get what they want
- . **Verbal Abuse and bullying**
- . **Physical abuse**
- . **Sexual coercion or abuse**
- . **Public criticism**
- . **Unfair Discrimination**
- . **Unreasonable demands on people**
- . **Withholding critical information a person needs**
- . **Financial misappropriation**
- . **Refusing feedback or accountability**

What is The Impact of Misuse and Abuse by People in Authority?

- . Those in Authority are called to represent the character of God and His Government
 - . The misuse or abuse of authority by any person, whether it be a parent, teacher, pastor, leader, employer or government official can have enormous negative impact upon people
 - . Abandonment, Abuse, or neglect by a parent or significant authority can cause lifelong negative consequences
- . **Note:**
- . **Witchcraft is Unlawful Authority, the Misuse and Abuse of Authority**
 - . Manipulation of people
 - . Intimidation of people
 - . Domination of people
- . Witchcraft occurs when someone
 - . Invades the boundaries of another person
 - . Imposes their will upon them or
 - . Takes over things they were responsible for
- . Witchcraft is exercising authority unlawfully and opens a legal door for spirits of witchcraft, death and destruction to afflict people
- . It is rebellion against God's order

Possible Effects of Misuse and Abuse of Authority

- . Rejection and low self esteem
- . Unforgiveness and Bitterness
- . Bitter Judgments and Expectations
- . Distrust of and Dishonour of all Authorities
- . Rebellion against authorities, active or passive
- . Inability to receive direction and correction
- . Health and Learning Difficulties
- . Inability to trust and submit to God
- . Lack of any spiritual authority
- . Torment by demons

Overcoming Wounds and Abuse by Authority Figures Some Practical Steps of Action

1. Recognise that there has been neglect or abuse by a significant authority figure

- . Recognise the fruit of issues with authority figures
- . Ask Holy Spirit to reveal what people have been the source of the pain
- . Father?, Mother?, Uncle?, Teacher?, Pastor?, Church Group? Etc

2. Acknowledge what has happened and the pain it has caused

- . This can be done by journalling
- . Sometimes the realisation of how great the pain is can seem overwhelming
- . Be patient and use writing to express the pain and distress

3. Bring your pain to Jesus and to the cross

- . Jesus will only hear what we acknowledge and release to Him
- . On the Cross he carried our griefs and sorrows and injustice

4. Forgive those who have hurt you

- . Release them specifically by name and by action...what they did
- . This takes a determination of your will, as the injustice may run deep
- . Pray blessing over their lives until you feel your heart free up

5. Renounce any ways you have tried to control the pain and save yourself

- . Bitter judgments
- . Inner Vows
- . Death wishes
- . Over responsible
- . Addictions

6. Begin to Show Gratitude and respect for those in Authority over you

- . Bitterness will cause you to focus on shortcomings and failure and be critical
- . Refuse to join in criticism of authority figures by others, and instead show gratitude and honour
- . Welcome feedback, not as an attack, but as a help to grow and enlarge
- . Do you need to put a previous dishonour right with someone in authority