

KAuth.3. Kingdom Ranks And Order

Introduction

NZ tends to be an Egalitarian Culture

- *"Egalitarian"....characterised by the belief in the equality of all people, favouring a classless society.*
- This is probably a reaction by early settlers coming from England and its class structured society and its privileges and discrimination
- This has lead to the "Tall Poppy Syndrome", where people who aspire to success and are strongly criticised
- People tend to react to and resist authority
- People tend to withhold honour or be quite dishonouring and critical of those who have success, or hold rank or authority of any kind

Familiarity Hinders flow of Power

- *"Familiarity"....this is a state of being close to someone.*
- Familiarity can lead to disrespect and dishonour because of feeling close to someone
- Sometimes people who have no close relationship act as if they are close and become dishonouring
- They behave without any respect for the rank or authority the person might have.

Example: Jesus Ministry Hindered

- Mrk 6:4 But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house."
- Mrk 6:5 Now He **could do no mighty work there**, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.
- Mrk 6:6 And He **marveled because of their unbelief**. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.
- Jesus came to His home town to preach the Gospel and minister healing and deliverance
- He could do no mighty work there! The flow of power and ministry were obstructed
- What obstructed the flow of power? People were familiar with Jesus and did not recognise nor honour the spiritual rank and authority that He carried
- Familiarity and lack of honour created an atmosphere of unbelief and resistance

The Principle of Honour

- Mat 10:40 "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."
- Mat 10:41 He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.
- "Sent".....Gk *apostello*.....to send forth on an assignment
- How we respond to and receive those God sends to us reflects our attitude to God Himself
- **Resisting and dishonouring those God has given roles and rank above us is dishonouring and the same as resisting the source, God himself**

Understanding Authority in The Kingdom

God is the Ultimate source of Authority

- Rom 13:1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Rom 13:2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.
- Authority originates from God who appoints people and delegates authority to them

- . "Appointed'Gk....tasso...to draw up in order, arrange in order, assign a place
- . How we respond to authority whenever we encounter it reveals our heart attitude to God
- . To resist authority, unless there is just cause, is to resist the authority of God

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)

Two Principle types of Authority

- Authority takes two main forms
 - 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
 - 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

God Delegates or Shares His Authority

- 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 Neh chooses

Example: The Centurion (Matt.8)

- 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 exercised delegated authority
 - . He was an ordinary person but he had been delegated command over 100 soldiers
 - . He was accountable to whoever had entrusted authority and responsibility to him
 - . The delegated authority gave the Centurion authority over people in Judea
 - . Jesus honoured his recognition of authority as evidence of "great faith"
- It takes faith to acknowledge and honour delegated authority

Order and Rank in The Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of God is arranged with Order and Ranks

- Ecc 8:4 Where the word of a king is, there is power; And who may say to him, "What are you doing?"
- . God is supreme authority and is able to do as He pleases
- . God has organised all His Kingdom in an organised and relational way

God has established Order in His Kingdom

What do we mean by "Order"?

- "Order"....Means an arrangement.
- There is a fixed place for everyone and everything, and everything should be in its place
 - Order essentially means orderliness.
 - Things are well arranged or organized. There is an allocated place for everything

Order has to do with roles and how we are assigned responsibilities by God

- Free Will authority is the characteristic of the Kingdom of God, because God refuses to impose His authority by force. It preserves freedom
- However God has an order or arrangement for how His Kingdom will operate and function
- It affects how we relate to one another

God has also established different ranks in His Kingdom

What do we mean by "Rank"?

- "Rank"....An official position or standing within an organisation or army, the relative position of someone in an organisation
 - Ranks provide a system of authority and responsibility, and accountability in an organisation
 - Rank is the lawful authority given to a person to be responsible for others

Rank has to do with the degree of authority that God has assigned to us.

- This differs according to the purpose of God for us
- In the **military**, ranks signify a hierarchical structure, with a clear Chain of Command, where each rank holds specific responsibilities, authority and accountability
- In a **business** organisation, titles reflect functional roles and responsibilities within the organisation

The focus of Spiritual Rank is not position, or importance but humility and service

- We need to know our place .. where we fit and what we carry (Rom.12:3)
- We need to know the authority we carry, its purpose and how to exercise it
- We also need to know how rightly relate to others with different spiritual rank.
 - Upward to those over
 - Downward to those under us

Examples of these Differing Roles and Ranks

The GodHead

- The Godhead or Trinity are Father Son and Holy Spirit
 - These three are equal and yet flow as one
- Notice the Difference in Roles and Order
 - Jhn 14:28 You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for **My Father is greater than I.**
 - 1Co 15:27 For "HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.
 - 1Co 15:28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then **the Son Himself will also be subject to Him** who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all

Angels different roles and ranks

- There are ranks among the Angels
- Cherubim, Seraphim, Thrones
- Dominions, Thrones, Powers
- Principalities, Archangels, Angels

4. **Demons different Roles and Ranks**

- Eph 6:12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*
- There are ranks among Demons
- Different demons have a function and hold a rank or level of authority in the spirit realm
- At the Cross Jesus legally stripped authority from all demonic powers (Col.2:15)
- Legally, all authority in heavens and earth now belong to Jesus
- We should always be led by the Spirit in dealing with the demonic realm

5. **Marriage.. Husband is the Head**

- 1Co 11:3 *But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.*
- In marriage the husband is assigned a role and rank as head
- This is not to order and command his wife but is a spiritual office with a function and responsibilities that carry authority in the spirit realm.
- The husband must embrace the role, and the responsibilities that come with headship
- He is to carry out his headship role following the model of Jesus Christ (Eph.5:23, 25)

6. **Church.....Elders Govern**

- Tit 1:5 *For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should **set in order** the things that are lacking, and **appoint elders** in every city as I commanded you—*
- Timothy's assignment from Paul was to set the church in order, and ordain elders
- The Local Church is a unique entity on the earth. In many ways it is like a family
- Proper Government of the local church is according to the Order God has appointed
- In the OT Israel was governed by Elders (Num.11:16)
- In the Church Jesus extends His headship through people to which He delegates authority
- He appoints them and anoints them and gives them to the church
- The Fivefold Ministry (Eph.4:1)...Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers
- The Elders These are the governing order Jesus has ordained for His Church

7. **The Responsibility or role of Elders is defined by God**

- Shepherd the Flock
 - 1Pe 5:2 *Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;*
 - 1Pe 5:3 *nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;*
- Rule over the Flock
 - 1Ti 3:4 *one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence*
 - 1Ti 3:5 *(for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);*

7. **Fivefold Min.First Apostles**

- 1Co 12:28 *And God has appointed these in the church: **first** apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.*
- Note the order and ranking in the fivefold ministries..first, second, third
- "First"....Gk....*proton*.....*first in time, rank or order of importance*
- Apostles come first because of the role or function they have which is unique among the Fivefold Ministries...they can operate in and activate all the other ministries
- Among Apostles there can be great variation in the rank and authority they carry

Apostles 70..12...3..1

- Among Jesus followers there were differing ranks in relationship with Jesus
 - . 70 Disciples
 - . 12 Apostles
 - . Three Apostles..Peter, James and John,
 - . One who was closer to Jesus ..John

Realms of Miracles Paul, Peter

Paul

- . Act 19:11 Now God worked **unusual miracles** by the hands of Paul,
- . Act 19:12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.

Peter

- . Act 5:15 so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.
- . Act 5:16 Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they **were all healed**.

Greater in Kingdom

Sermon on the Mount

- . Mat 5:19 Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be **called least** in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be **called great** in the kingdom of heaven.

Parable of the Pounds(Minas)

- . Luk 19:17 And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have **authority over ten cities.**'
- . Luk 19:18 And the second came, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned five minas.'
- . Luk 19:19 Likewise he said to him, 'You also be **over five cities.**'

The Spirit Realm Recognises differing Ranks of Authority

Daniel: Angel Rank Recognised

- . Dan 10:12 Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.
- . Dan 10:13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.
- . On the day that Daniel prayed an angel was sent with an answer
- . The Angel was resisted by a Demon of higher rank and authority
- . The angel recognised was not of a rank that could overpower the resistance of this prince
- . The angel enlisted the assistance of Michael, one of the chief princes to assist him
- . Only an angel of greater rank and authority could prevail

Sons of Sceva were Recognised

- . Act 19:15 And the evil spirit answered and said, "**Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?**"
- . Act 19:16 Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.
- . The Sons of Sceva were exorcists. They received money for doing rituals to remove evil spirits
- . They had no authority or rank in the spirit to overcome the demon

- . The demon recognised the rank and authority of Jesus and of Paul
- . The demon recognised their lack of rank and authority and overpowered all seven of them

Jesus was Recognised

- . Luk 4:33 Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice,
- . Luk 4:34 saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? **I know who You are—the Holy One of God!**"
- . Jesus superior rank and authority were recognised by the demon
- . "I know who you are". The demon knew Jesus identity and Rank
- . The demon was afraid of Jesus and what he had authority to do

Believers are Also Recognised

- . **All believers can be identified by the spirit realm. They are marked or sealed by God**
- . Eph 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,
- . Their condition or status can be seen by demons (Matt.12:44)
- . Although God is not partial at all, he appoints different believers to different Ranks or Levels of Authority
- . Where more has been given more is also expected

The Rank or Level of authority that believers carry depends upon:

- . Their Individual Calling by God
- . The responsibilities entrusted to them by God
- . The Spiritual Office that they carry
- . The Mantle or Anointing God has entrusted to them
- . Their experience, battle scars and victories

We Need to Recognise Rank And Authority

The Example of the centurion

- . Mat 8:5 Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him,
- . Mat 8:6 saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." Mat 8:7 And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."
- . Mat 8:8 The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed."
- . 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 understood authority, how it operated and how to position himself

- . The centurion was a soldier in the army of Rome and under **military authority**
- . He was a man who recognised authority, and was under authority, or submitted to a higher authority.
- . Because he was under authority he was given authority over others who yielded to him
- . His authority gave him the right and power to give commands
- . The Centurion recognised that Jesus was a man under authority, under **Kingdom authority**
- . **The centurion positioned himself in right relationship with Jesus and His authority**
- . **It takes great faith to recognise and position self in right relationship to authority**

Right Positioning is important for the Power of God to Flow.

Jesus gave His Followers Authority over Demons not people

- Luk 10:19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.
 - . Jesus has total authority in heaven and earth, and over all demonic powers
 - . Jesus has delegated some of His authority to every believer over demonic spirits and their activities
 - . Jesus shares or delegates His authority in ranks or levels which are connected to the responsibilities and assignment we are given by Him

There are conditions around how We Exercise Spiritual Authority

- Jas 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

Jas 4:7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

- . **Authority flows from above through relationship and alignment**
- . We must be in relationship and alignment for authority to operate

Note the Three Key Conditions to Exercising Kingdom Authority

- 1. **Humility**Humble yourself, recognise and honour the source

- 2. **Alignment**.....Submit yourself

- 3. **Resist** Exercise Authority

There are Conditions around how we Receive from someone carrying Authority

- Mrk 6:4 But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not **without honor** except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house."

Mrk 6:5 Now **He could do no mighty work there**, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.

Mrk 6:6 And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.

- . Jesus could do no mighty work in His hometown, even though He desired to and was anointed to heal and to set free.
- . Kingdom Authority is a Freewill Authority. We can choose to receive or reject it
- . Because of their attitude and response the people were unable to receive

Note the Key Conditions to Receiving from someone carrying Kingdom Authority

- 1. **Humility**... Humble yourself, and recognise what the person carries

- 2. **Alignment** Position yourself to welcome, accept and receive from that person

- 3. **Honour** Place value on them and what they carry from God for you