

Introduction:

- We continue in our series on covenant tonight. We started in the OT with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and finally with Jesus. What we have in Christ naturally brings us to the question: "How do I exercise my covenant authority. Jesus gives us a taste of how this works.
- *"Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you."* (Luke 10:19, ESV) Jesus said these words to about 70 relatively new believers and he sends them out to change the world and peoples lives.
- He does not just send them out but sends them out with authority to do things.

I. Learning From A Centurion

- A. The day Jesus was surprised. Mt 8:10 He marveled with amazement! The Greek term is to express joyful astonishment. TDNT. What is He astonished at? Of course He is astonished at the man's faith. He is astonished that the children of Israel, the Covenant children, do not understand what they have while, a Gentile totally gets it!
- B. Jesus now surprises them: *"When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, 'Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*" And to the centurion Jesus said, *"Go; let it be done for you as you have believed."* And the servant was healed at that very moment." (Matthew 8:10-13, ESV)
 1. No one in Israel (among the covenant people) has Jesus found with such faith.
 2. This really surprises them: *"Listen to what I am about to tell you. Multitudes of non-Jewish people will stream from the east and the west, to enter into the banqueting feast with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the heavenly kingdom."* (Matthew 8:11, TPT)
 3. What we learn from this is Jesus has a happy heart knowing that His children are walking in His authority! This is a goal for all of us.
- C. What we see in this Matthew passage is there is a direct relationship between our living faith and our authority in Christ. What we understand to be truth we believe and that fuels our faith.
 1. A Gentile, Italian, has outstanding faith because He understands authority.
 2. There is a correlation between living by faith and understanding our authority.

II. Adam The First To Have Authority

- A. Take dominion. *"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps*

on the earth." (Genesis 1:26, ESV)

1. Dominion - Heb 'rada' - To tread upon and to rule over.
 2. Having received dominion/authority from God over His creation means that we are called to steward that which does not belong to us. We steward or have authority over what does not belong to us.
- B. Ps 8:6 Confirmation: *"You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,"* (Psalm 8:6, ESV)
1. We have been given authority over His works.
 2. The 'take away' from all of this is that God has given authority over to humanity.

III. Jesus Reclaimed Authority

- A. The first Adam lost authority when he sinned. *"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion ...'"* (Genesis 1:26, ESV)
1. When Adam sinned he lost authority and Satan picked it up. Like a football fumble.
 2. Gen 3 tells how the serpent deceived them out of it.
 3. When they sinned they died spiritually thus losing authority.
 4. The question is, where was Adam? He should have used his authority to put the serpent in his place by speaking to Him.
- B. Words are a major way that authority is released.
1. Heb 11:2 Says that *the worlds were formed by the Word of God*. When Christians speak the word they are exercising authority.
 2. Words have authority in the realm of the Spirit.
 - a) Good words produce good fruit.
 - b) Bad words produce bad fruit.
 - c) If we truly believe that our words have authority we would watch what we say. And we would exert more authority into our lives.
 - d) This is also the reason we want to 'soak' our lives in the Word of God. People of covenant want to know and speak what they have.
- C. We are made in the image of God. Let work it!

Conclusion:

- God has all authority.
- He gave that authority to the first Adam.
- Satan deceived Adam and he sinned.
- Satan picked up the authority.
- Jesus came and got it back. The keys of death and hell.
- All authority has been given to me. Mt 28:18.
- And He has given it to us.
- Covenant!