

Vocabulary Word #3 – “Authority”

Vocabulary for Our Times (Pt. 3)

January 20, 2019

INTRO ...What will motivate you in 2019? ...When you go to “do life”—what makes us think any of this works?

...we are all entering into “Chapter 2019”... of a story being authored by God, in which we are characters in that Story!

Romans 12:1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

... **“Discern what the will of God is”... and “present yourself”**

...the Vocabulary Word for today is ESSENTIAL to: (1) My awareness that the purpose and details of my story don’t originate with me, but with God ... (2) How do I know those details will actually come to pass?

...Today’s Vocabulary Word is “AUTHORITY”

The acts of God issue from His throne, and His throne is established on His authority. All things are created through God’s authority ... Authority is a tremendous thing in the universe—nothing overshadows it. It is therefore imperative for us who desire to serve God to know the authority of God. ...It is absolutely necessary for us to meet God’s authority and to possess a basic knowledge of what it is.” Watchman Nee, “Spiritual Authority”, p. 8-9

Psalms 24:1-2 The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, ² for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

Col 1:16-17 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

...THIS is the Essence of Authority and THE GREAT EXPLAINER of Our Existence!! ...The OWNER has Rights!

"God has the right to ask what he wants of you and me because he created us. Since he made us, he owns us. ...God owns the world and everything in it. ...Personally, you and I belong to God. This is where we start in order to understand how to live in God's world." **James Johnston, Psalms, PTW**

"We ourselves are not our own; our bodies, our souls, are not. Even those of the children of men are God's, who know him not, nor own their relation to him." **Matthew Henry, "Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary of the Whole Bible"**

So... Fundamental to Our Existence is "Ownership" ... "Origin" ... "Authorship" => AUTHORITY!!

Consider: Authority is both a Mobilizer and a Comforter in our Lives.

Consider: Authority is a Foundational and Life-Defining Element! ...One could say, all that is fallen finds its roots in "DISPLACED AUTHORITY"

Is 14:12-14 “How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! ¹³ You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’
...There is an Authority Usurper in This World!

Jesus Flashing His Badge!

...Have you ever considered that part of what Jesus was doing in His Earthly Ministry was Demonstrating His Authority!

Matt 8-10 ...Jesus’ Rights Over Everything!

Authority (Gk. *exousia*) = **the right to exercise power.** [Jesus had the Power AND the Right to Exercise That Power] ...and in the Gospels he is going to Demonstrate that!

- **Matt 5-7 ...the Sermon on the Mount—was “leaking Authority!”**
 - **Matt 7:28-29**
 - Jesus had the right to PRESCRIBE what life was and was not supposed to be!
 - Jesus had the right to Define what is Right and what is Wrong in human relationships, human behavior, human attitudes!
- **Matt 8:1-3 ...Jesus heals the leper**
 - v. 2... This is how one addresses the Divine Author of Our Existence! ...Lord, It is TOTALLY Up to You!!
- **Matt 8:5-9, 13 ...Jesus has authority over sickness** ...This guy GETS IT! This guy understands that Life is Ultimately about Who Has the Authority!!
- **Matt 8:23-27 ...Jesus Has Authority over the Physical World!**
 - v. 27... “What sort of man is this?”—That’s the Right Question!! ...Jesus does unique things in creation because He IS UNIQUE!!
- **Matt 8:28-32 ...Jesus Has Authority over the Spiritual World!**
- **Matt 9:1-8 ...Jesus Has Authority to Forgive Sin!**
 - Forgiveness is a wonderful concept!! ...but it is a meaningless concept without Authority!

- **Matt 9:9 ...Jesus has Authority Over the Lives and Direction of Individuals**
- **Matt 9:18ff ...Jesus has Authority Over Death!**
- **Matt 9:35-10:8 ...Jesus has Authority to Send Us to Work in His Fields!**
 - **Matt 28:18-19** ...Jesus demonstrated that He had the right to send them to work in His Fields!
 - **Matt 10:26-30** ...Fear, Honor, and Trust in HIM who has ULTIMATE AUTHORITY over your life!
 - v. 28... There's Only ONE who has Eternal Authority over your life!
 - v. 29-30... Take shelter and courage in God having all Authority—even in the Little Details of Life!!!

Authority That Goes Before Us in the Details...

Gen 24:1ff ...Gen 24:42-50

...God doesn't just watch over your hairs... He arranges meetings and timing and locations conversations and word choices and willingness and the faith & responses of others!!!

"Don't be afraid" = an Authority Issue!

— What is 'salvation'?

...There's lots of 'kicking & screaming Christians' today—children of God who are throwing some sort of tantrum, because THEIR WILL isn't being done! ...They have not welcomed God's Authority over their lives with their WILLS being Conformed to His Will. ...**We want a Savior and we want Help in Life—but we don't want to Give Up Authority**

The greatest of God's demands on man is not for him to bear the cross, to serve, make offerings, or deny himself. The greatest demand is for him to obey." Watchman Nee, "Spiritual Authority", p. 11

"Before we can work for God we must be overturned by His authority. Our entire relationship with God is regulated by whether or not we have met authority. If we have, then we shall encounter authority everywhere, and being thus restrained by God we can begin to be used by Him." Watchman Nee, "Spiritual Authority", p. 13