

**WHO IS IN CHARGE?**  
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Matthew 7:28-29, 8:5-13

1. Who is the ultimate authority in your life?
  2. Who sits on the throne of your life?
  3. Have you bowed your knee, and is Jesus Lord?
  4. These are important questions, because if Jesus is not in total control God's plans and purposes for our lives will not be fully realized.
  5. It is one thing to recognize Jesus' authority; it is another thing to yield to it.
  6. Jesus made it clear that He was Lord of all when He declared, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." Matthew 28:18
  7. The Apostles stressed this truth in their preaching and their writing. Acts 2:36  
"Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified."
  8. Matthew wrote that the people who heard the Sermon on the Mount were profoundly impacted by what they heard.
    - a. "They were amazed (dumbfounded) at His teaching."
    - b. They recognized that He taught as one having authority.
  9. The sad thing is that most of them watched, listened, heard, considered, and wondered at His teaching and authority, but they did not enter the narrow gate and walk the narrow road.
  10. Jesus had an impact on many lives during His earthly ministry, but comparatively few embraced Him as Lord and Savior.
  11. Where Jesus is concerned many people are like C. S. Lewis and the dentist.  
As a boy Lewis would not tell his mother he had a toothache until he could not stand the pain any longer. The reason was that he knew his mother would not stop at just giving him an aspirin to relieve the pain. She would take him to the dentist, and the dentist would not only deal with the affected tooth, but he would poke around and mess around with other teeth as well. Lewis went on to say that people are like that in their relationship to Christ. They would be happy to have Him fix their toothaches (solve their problems) as long as He did not mess around with the rest of their lives.
  12. But it does not work that way because, "He (Jesus) is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins." Acts 5:31
  13. Becoming a Christian involves repentance toward God and embracing Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
  14. When we genuinely turn to Jesus we get the whole package or nothing.
  15. I am not suggesting that at conversion we fully understand the full implications of Lordship, but I am firmly stating that to be saved a person must believe on the **Lord** Jesus Christ.
  16. The centurion understood authority, and he also understood that Jesus had authority.
    - a. As a centurion he was under authority.
    - b. As a centurion he had authority over 100 men, and he also had a slave.
    - c. Because he had authority those who were under his authority obeyed him.
  17. The question is do we understand authority, and are we living under Christ's authority?
- NOTE: When He says, "Go," do we go, when He says, "Come," do we come, and when He says, "Do," do we do?

### **I. The centurion recognized Jesus' authority.**

- A. He addressed Jesus as Lord, and the word he used meant one who is supreme in authority.
- B. How he came to this place of understanding and faith we are not told.
- C. Yet we know his faith was genuine because Jesus testified to and marveled at his great faith. 10-12

NOTE: Jesus used the opportunity to proclaim the inclusiveness of His Kingdom, and also to warn that many will miss out.

### **II. The centurion humbly implored Jesus to exercise His authority on behalf of his servant.**

- A. He clearly stated what the need was.
- B. When Jesus said, "I will come and heal him," the centurion, who understood the realities of the situation, stated that Jesus did not need to come; He simply needed to issue a command.
- C. When we approach the Throne of Grace do we come confidently, in faith, believing that Jesus can and will respond. Hebrews 4:14-16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

### **III. The centurion's servant became the beneficiary of his faith and Jesus' authority.**

- A. Jesus told him, "Go, it shall be done for you as you believed."
- B. At that moment the centurion's servant was healed.

### **APPLICATION**

1. Do you recognize Jesus' God given authority?
2. Are you living under that authority, and does your life testify that you are?
3. Does your prayer life reflect your understanding of Jesus' authority?
4. What specific things are you asking Jesus to do in your life and in the lives of others?