

The Authority of Jesus; Mark 11:27-28

I. Authority

A. The right to control or command

1. The US Military is a rank structured society where those with more rank have the right to control or command those with less
2. MTI controlling the basic training band in San Antonio

B. We understand authority, but the 'American' in us rebels

- #### C. The American dream is to be your own boss so no one can tell you what to do or not do
- #### D. What we fail to realize is that we will always be under authority — which one do we choose?

II. Lord and Master

A. Acts 2:36 (ESV); Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

B. We, as Americans, have an aversion to the master/slave relationship

1. I'm pretty sure it is because of our history (and not just ours, but world history)
 2. First it was indentured servants, then Irish slaves, then African slaves
 3. Slavery goes back to Egypt when they enslaved the Israelites
 4. We see an uprising of anti-slavery idealism today
 5. Yet the word 'Lord' means owner, one who is in possession
 6. 1 Peter 2:9 (ESV); But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
 7. While I don't think the we, as an example of humanity, ought to own anyone, we are owned — we are slaves either to sin or to righteousness
 8. Romans 6:16 (ESV); Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?
 9. When we decided that we were going to follow Jesus, we accepted Him as our Lord, as our Master, as our owner!
- #### C. 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (ESV); ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
- #### D. 1 Corinthians 7:22–23 (ESV); ²² For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ. ²³ You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men.

III. Do's and Don'ts

A. I have talked a lot about obedience in the past year and I believe obedience is a key part of our christianity, but it is not a bunch of do's and don'ts

B. The Pharisees has a list of do's and don'ts — about 613 of them

C. One of the laws that really caused the Pharisees to get angry was the rule about the Sabbath

D. Exodus 20:8–11 (ESV); ⁸ “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

1. When the Lord gave them mana, He gave it to them each day except on the day before the Sabbath He gave them double
2. According to Jewish oral law and tradition (the Talmud) there are 39 prohibited activities on the Sabbath

3. The Pharisees are angry at the apostles for threshing wheat in their hands while they were walking on the Sabbath (Matthew 12)
 4. Jesus clears up the confusion when he says that the Sabbath was designed for us, not us for the Sabbath (Mark 2:28)
 - E. The do's and don'ts of the law were designed to show us sin versus righteousness
 - F. Christianity is not a list of do's and don'ts (like the law)
 - G. Christ fulfilled the law through his death
 - H. We are freed from the law
- IV. Freedom and Servants
- A. 1 Peter 2:16 (ESV); Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.
 - B. We have been set free from the bondage of sin to be slaves to righteousness
 - C. We are God's righteousness (rightness)
 1. We are no longer sinners (that is who we were)
 2. We are no longer condemned (Romans 8:1)
 3. No one can 'bring a charge' (Romans 8:33)
 4. We are now the 'rightness' of God — chosen to be His ambassadors here to show others His Son
 5. 2 Corinthians 5:20–21 (ESV); ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
 6. We made this choice freely — to become slaves
 7. Everyone is free to make a choice — slaves to sin or slaves to righteousness
 8. In making the choice we set forth the rest of our lives — to live in our own passions or to live in God's righteousness
 - D. If we live in God's righteousness then we are determined to live according to His will and not our own
 1. His will becomes our will
 2. It is no longer a list of do's and don'ts, but a desire to carry out His will — to live according to God's precepts — to live in an 'obedience of faith'
- V. The Authority of Jesus
- A. Will you accept Him as your Master?
 - B. Will you become His slave?
 - C. Will you accept His will as your own?