MONDAY The Authority of Jesus

Matthew 28:18 "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth'"

- During His earthly ministry = Jesus taught w/ a power /authority unlike anything people had ever witnessed
- His authority not from human institutions
    - Had not attended / traditional rabbinical schools
    - Held no official position in / religious establishment
    - Carried no certificate from priests / endorsement from rulers
- Yet when Jesus spoke = people listened
    - When He commanded = demons fled = winds became still
    - When He called / dead = they came back to life
- 3 Main Points: **1) Jesus' authority comes from God = 2) Revealed thru His words/works = 3) Calls for faith, surrender, and obedience**

1. Jesus' Authority Comes From God

- Came directly from His Father / AND / from who He eternally was
    - Divine Son of God / humanity's Creator/Redeemer/King

Matthew 21:23 Chief priests/elders challenged Jesus while He was teaching in / temple = asking, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?"

Matthew 21:25, 26 Jesus responded = "The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?" And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' [26]But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet."

- Praying to / Father = Jesus clearly identified source of His authority

John 17:2 "You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him."

- Jesus did not act independently from His Father
- Did everything = in perfect harmony/cooperation = w/Father

John 5:19 "The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do"

- Be careful not to judge spiritual truth merely by outward credentials
- Education / training can be valuable = but they can never replace
    - Genuine calling from God / faithfulness to Scripture
    - And the transforming power of the Holy Spirit

2. Jesus' authority is revealed thru His Words and Works

- At conclusion of = Sermon on the Mount = Matthew writes:

Matthew 7:28, 29 "The people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes"

- Scribes often quoted opinions of previous teachers = Jesus spoke w/ direct/divine certainty = again and again He declared, "But I say to you." = Did not merely explain truth = He was / Truth
- **Jesus demonstrated authority over / spiritual realm**

Mark 1:21-27 Jesus entered synagogue / people were amazed at His doctrine = then demon-possessed man cried out
Jesus rebuked / unclean spirit, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" Demon immediately obeyed = **Mark 1:27** people responded, "What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him."

- **Jesus demonstrated authority over nature**

Luke 8:22-25 Jesus / His disciples were crossing Sea of Galilee when violent storm arose = terrified disciples awakened Him, crying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Jesus stood /rebuked wind / raging water Immediately / storm ceased = there was calm = **Luke 8:25** disciples asked one another "Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!"

- **Jesus demonstrated authority to forgive sins**

Mark 2:10 declared "the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins." = then healed paralyzed man = as visible evidence that He possessed invisible authority to forgive

John 2:24, 25 says that He "knew all men" and "knew what was in man."

- He had authority over sickness, demons, nature, sin, and death

John 5:25 "The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live."

- At tomb of Lazarus, Jesus cried, "Lazarus, come forth!" and man who had been dead for four days walked out of grave
- Overwhelming evidence = His words carry eternal authority
    - His works reveal His divine identity

3. Jesus' Authority Calls for Faith, Surrender, and Obedience

- Many rejected Jesus' authority = because accepting Jesus would have required them to surrender their pride / traditions / control
- Face same danger = of resisting His authority = today by
    - placing our opinions above His Word
    - obeying only parts of Scripture that are comfortable
    - calling Him "Lord" but refusing to follow His instructions

Luke 6:46 "Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

- Faith in Jesus must lead to = obedience to His Word
    - Submit to His leading = Place every decision / habit / relationship / fear / plan under His authority
- Jesus delegates authority to His disciples = **Mark 6:7** records He sent them out to carry forward His mission / providing the power **Revelation 19:10** = His testimony also came to prophets thru whom He spoke

- Jesus has authority to = forgive our sins / break chains of addiction and fear / calm storms within our hearts / give eternal life
- His authority came from Father = revealed thru His words/works
- And it calls every person to faith / surrender / obedience
- Accept Jesus not only as Savior = but also as Lord