

Word of the Great King | the gift of living under authority

The End of War

Matthew 26:47-56

July 10, 2022

Introduction: We're rightly suspicious of authority. "Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely," Lord Acton quips. But one day Jesus met a Roman soldier who understood the power of being under power. "I am a man under authority," he says, and because I am, "I say to one 'Go', and he goes." Maybe today we feel so impotent because we're so intent on throwing off authority and becoming our own. The Bible offers an alternative: to find the authority in our lives under the authority of a great King.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, grant us understanding of the way you wisely chose to express your authority in the passage we are reading together today. Help us apply what we learn from you to the situations we face in our lives. Amen.

Review: Were you able to recall someone with whom you have an unresolved issue that needs reconciliation? What guidance did you receive in prayer regarding that situation?

Read: Matthew 26:47-56

Discussion:

1. What power and authority do the people with Judas have? What power and authority does Jesus have? How do they each use their power?
2. What writing of the prophets is Jesus talking about? How are the prophecies fulfilled? (See Isaiah 53, Genesis 3:15-16)
3. Jesus is choosing to use his power for a complete and durable victory. How do you understand his choice?
4. What difference could understanding how Jesus used his authority make in the conflicts in your life?

Application: Think about the conflicts in your life. What outcomes do you desire? Ask God to reveal to you his purpose in these situations.

Prayer: Father thank you for sending your beloved Son Jesus to bring us a peace that is only found in You. Guide us to that peace in the conflicts in our lives. Amen.