



## Kingdom Authority: *With Great Power (Week 6)*

Whose house? God's House! Whose House? God's House!

I don't know about you but, every time I say it, it just feels good to declare this house as God's house. There is something inside me that leaps at the excitement of what He has done, what He is doing, and what He is about to do. Amen! There is something about recognizing God's authority that just feels right. You know there are times when we are asked to do something and it's like okay. But there are times when we are asked to do something and it's just like "yes"! Declaring the God as King, as Lord, as leader. Giving Him glory. That just feels right. Amen!

I am excited to share with you this morning and I am believing God has got a Word for us today. As this is our final installment for this introductory series for our theme in 2022 Kingdom Authority. And throughout 2022 God is going to continue to bring revelation about how we as believers can walk in the God's mighty gift to us. How many of us would agree it has been a powerful series. Just a quick recap - We learned that we have authority - not just any kind of authority. Kingdom authority. Turn to your neighbor and remind them, "you have Kingdom Authority." Turn to your other neighbor and say "In every sphere of your life":

Those sphere's and the focus of each one:

1. Individual sphere; 2. Family sphere; 3. Church sphere; 4. Government sphere

We learned that while each of these spheres often times can become as separate compartments in our lives, they most certainly were never meant to work apart from each other. Rather, as we gain greater clarity of how kingdom authority works in each of these spheres, the spheres empower each other to be even greater alignment with God. That's good news. Because if I feel away from God, a good place to start is to begin to draw back to God in one of the spheres, then another, and another ... each one will empower the others as I recalibrate back.

We discussed our goals for 2022. It's got its own rhythm. Right. So we:

Kingdom Authority: Give God Control

Extreme Ownership: Own Your Role

Shalom in Every Area: Make Life Whole

May I add ...

Our rap: It's the gift of His grace to you and me. It's empowerment in love for all to see. We got Kingdom Authority from up above so walk it out and show your love ... it goes ...

Give God Control / Own Your Role / To Make Life Whole

So today, we are taking this a bit further to consider our responsibility. You didn't think you could get authority and that is it right? Uh-uh. The saying goes, "With great power, comes great responsibility."



Each of these areas come with responsibility

1. Individual sphere - present God to the world (we are His re-presentation)
2. Family sphere - to provide guidance in the ways of God
3. Church sphere - to proclaim God's truth
4. Government - to protect God's truth

If one would go and look up the word responsibility in the Bible, they would find over 700 references. Much of these are given through the stories of people who could stand as our examples or models of what to do or not to do as a Christ follower.

The long and short is this: Our responsibility as we steward Kingdom Authority is (write this down), "To protect and expand that which God has entrusted to our stewardship for Him." That's simple because if what we do doesn't lend itself to that, well, we probably need to re-think that thought of doing what we do.

From that definition what do we learn about Kingdom Authority?

- Every professed believer in Christ carries this responsibility
- Our receipt of Kingdom Authority is not for us. Who is it for?
- Kingdom Authority is a tool to bring God glory and for every other person the Lord brings before us that they would come to know God.

What would you say, if I told you, everything is God's? God is the OWNER. We, You and I, own nothing. We are not the owner. We are the MANAGER. God is saying I have given you every resource you need, you make decisions on my behalf, you represent me. And I will be with you until the end of the age. As His. manager we become stewards of God's resources.

Did you feel that responsibility meter go up a few notches?

So God in His wisdom inspired several parables to illustrate what it means to be a of faithful servant.

I'd like us to turn to Luke chapter 12;35-48. It is verse 48 that we read, *"When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required."*

Waaaaa - that's us, folks. To whom has been given much, much will be required in return. This is serious stuff.

This is a call to be prepared for the Lord's coming. Imagine our stewardship, our responsibility is GOD calling us to preparation and faithfulness for His return.

So, the story is told of a master who has left his servant in charge of the others, his possessions and all else. Imagine you are one of the servants and you are being told.



*<sup>35</sup> "Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup> as though you were waiting for your master to return from the wedding feast. Then you will be ready to open the door and let him in the moment he arrives and knocks. <sup>37</sup> The servants who are ready and waiting for his return will be rewarded. I tell you the truth, he himself will seat them, put on an apron, and serve them as they sit and eat! <sup>38</sup> He may come in the middle of the night or just before dawn. But whenever he comes, he will reward the servants who are ready."*

And we are given three potential outcomes:

1. Outcome 1: If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward.<sup>44</sup> I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns.

2 (wicked) : The servant figures the master won't be back for a while and beats up the other servants, parties, and gets drunk? <sup>46</sup> The master will return unannounced and unexpected, and he will cut the servant in pieces and banish him with the unfaithful.

One who knows what the master wants but doesn't do what he is asked (rebellious) is punished severely compared to someone who doesn't know and then does something wrong is punished lightly.

When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.

Interestingly Matthew and Mark both choose to parallel this verse. (Parallel verses in Matthew 24:42-51; Mark 13:34-37)

Matthew continues in chapter 25 with the parable of the talents. Which begins with ... "At that time the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ..." Here the master goes on a journey (no one knows when he will return). But decides to give his servants authority and care over talents.

To the first he gave 5 talents traded them and made 5 more, to the 2nd he gave 2 talents and he made 2 talents more, to the 3rd he gave 1 talent went and buried it. When the master returned, his response to the one with the 5 talents who made 5 more is "Well done good and faithful servant. Because you have been faithful over little, I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master."

To the one who had 2 talents who made 2 more the master's response was, "Well done good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over little, I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master."

What do you think the one with the one talent was told? Well, the one with the 1 talent says because of fear the servant buried the talent. So when the master returned to find nothing was done, the master removed the talent from the one and gave it to the one with the 10. He then declared, for everyone who has more will be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away And cast the worthless servant to the outer darkness in that place, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.



Both stories illustrate the master's heart to entrust his servants but moreover to co-labor with his servants. Both reveal that the servants know what is expected. The faithful servant does not give up but rather holds fast to what the master requires and fulfills his responsibility. His focus is the master.

The failed servant is one who does not complete his tasks, abuses others, either squanders or hoards resources away. In fear or disregard, his focus is himself.

The differences focus and stewardship. I share this, today because I have seen both. Working in the church, leading small groups, providing spiritual guidance for couples in trouble, I did not understand what it meant at the time, and stewarded poorly. My focus was self. I was the one who operated out of fear and scarcity. Did I know it was not right. Yes. But I was able to press it aside because I didn't realize the responsibility or weight of the authority I was given. Did you know authority has weight? The weight of responsibility. WE know we have embraced the authority we have been given when we feel the weight. Don't be like me who in the "after" I looked back and saw the carnage I had caused. I felt the disappointment, the despair, the separation. I know I will stand accountable for that time. I share that because I believe we need to know this concept of Kingdom Authority is not just a good subject for a sermon series. It is a very real part of our being a Christ follower, a creature created by the one true God. I also believe I am to share it because there is redemption. It was at a foursquare convention that the speaker's words were "Walk it Out". While at the time, it wasn't this earth-shaking message, the words "walk it out" I believe were from God. Funny, back then I couldn't recall the full crux of the message. Today, I know it was to walk out my life in Christ in His the authority that He has given. Is my journey perfect? Far from it. But I know His redemption. I would not be here if it were not for Him. Am I done, no way. He is not finished with me yet. He keeps breathing life.

The past few weeks all I kept seeing was elevation. The sense is that this \_\_\_\_ He is wanting to elevate us. He is calling us to take risks. So, this morning, I am also stepping out. I would like to recognize the prayer team to pray. As I pray, here's what we are going to do ... These are the ways the enemy stops us from realizing / walking out the authority He has given.

As Jesus gives the great commission, His words were, *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (Implies someone has none). Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* This is God asking will you steward

Call these out: Fear / shame / Intimidation - people pleasing man - approval is your idol

Laziness / Lack of faith

Unforgiveness

Sin / Selfishness - shows in rebellion and control and gives permission to the enemy (false heaven)



His Name was Mephibosheth – dispeller of shame. He was the son of Jonathan and grandson to King Saul. He was born into royalty. But at the point that his father and grandfather were killed, a servant helping the young child escape dropped him breaking both feet and crippling him for life. In those days, those who were challenged with such affliction would be hidden away in shame. He would remain hidden until his father’s best friend King David, remembered him, sought the now young man out and brought not just him but his infant son to have a place with him at his own table. Property was restored, hearts were restored, there was no more shame because where he sat at a table of shame, he now sat at the table of the king.

I feel like today, God is saying we may have been maimed, made lame, shamed but like David, God is saying I haven’t forgotten you. This morning God wants to restore us to Himself. He wants us to put away those things that have stolen our identity and say devil you have stolen enough. And In JESUS NAME I AM TAKING IT BACK. Take a step, take a step and receive and I will restore and refresh you.

### **Ohana Group Questions**

- 1) *What does it mean that we have been given Kingdom Authority?*
- 2) *What is the connection between Kingdom Authority and responsibility?*
- 3) *Read Luke 12:35-48 discuss how it might relate to you.*
- 4) *Read Matthew 25:14-30 share your thoughts.*
- 5) *Consider God is the owner and you the manager. What does it mean to give God control; own your role. How does doing so help you to have shalom peace?*
- 6) *Which sphere are you the most comfortable with the ideas spoken throughout the series?*
- 7) *Which sphere is the most challenging to apply the ideas spoken throughout the series?*