

Small Group Discussion Guide — September 12, 2021

- Series: Beholding Jesus
 - Sermon: Jesus and All Authority
 - Scripture: Matthew 7: 24-29, Matthew 28: 16-20
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FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

What opportunities to forgive those who had offended you did God put into your life this week? How did you respond?

How did He remind you that His forgiveness for you is complete, and how was that assurance reflected in your words and actions?

CONNECT

1. What stood out to you from this past week's service, and why?
2. Consider a time when you resisted someone's authority over you - your very own "You're not the boss of me" moment. A parent? A boss? How did you respond? How did they?

ENGAGE

1. Read Matthew 7:24-29
 - Imagine being in the crowd and hearing Jesus' words. Why was the crowd amazed? What do you imagine was different in the way Jesus taught than the way others did?
 - To what teaching was Jesus referring when he said, "Follow my teaching?" In what areas of your life is Christ asserting his authority, and how do you recognize Christ's authority in your actions/choices?
2. Matthew 28:18-20.
 - What do you make of Jesus specifically claiming "all authority"? What do you think that means? Why might Jesus have claimed all authority this at this particular point of his ministry?
 - What does Jesus tell his followers to do? How do you hear these commands and his promise in verse 20, in light of his claim of ultimate authority?

APPLY

1. What authority holds your life together? How is your willing submission manifested in your actions? What is holding you back from recognizing Jesus' ultimate authority, in this life and the next?
2. Pete not only talked about what it means to recognize and submit to God's perfect authority, but also asked what authority He has given to us, His disciples. How would you answer that? What effect does that have on the way you interact with His children, both within and outside of the church?

PRAYER

Jesus, Thank you for the shelter of your loving authority, and for the peace that you offer me when I come to you in love and submission. Thank you for your grace when I doubt. Thank you for walking beside me and giving me the direction I need to come closer to you, just as you came closer to me. Please help me to discern you in my daily life, and to offer myself to you in continuous surrender to your authority. You are more powerful than words can describe, and I submit to your perfect authority. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

Consider how love and willing submission relate to one another. How, specifically, do you submit to Christ's authority, and where do you resist? Where do you see yourself surrendering in love, and where, perhaps, from a place of fear? How do each of these responses affect your relationship with Jesus?

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

John 5: 19

2 Corinthians 1: 20

Colossians 3:12

Revelation 22: 12-13

QUOTES

"A Christian is not primarily a nice person who subscribes to certain beliefs and codes. Christianity is instead a radical regeneration of the heart and a reorientation of life."

Tim Keller