

Lesson 21: Thy Kingdom Come

Kingdom Authority

Reflect

1. What images come to mind for you when thinking of the word 'authority'?
2. Does this picture of a leader being a 'servant' seem counterintuitive?
3. How does Jesus demonstrate servant-leadership?

Read Your Bible

- 1 Corinthians 9:19-23
- Matthew 20:20-28

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. At first glance, does it seem the Apostle Paul is conforming to the world rather than being set apart?
2. Do you tend to think that leaders are valuable and hold a lot of responsibility? Or that they have authority by position only?
3. Has there ever been a time when someone held their authority over you as a ruler?
4. Has there ever been a time when you have held authority over someone as a ruler?
5. Does it seem like weakness to serve and sacrifice for another?
6. Think of some good examples of people who have led through service and sacrifice?
7. What are some ways we can become better leaders by being better servants?

Conclusion

Kingdom authority does not come from power, status, wealth or title. Leadership and authority are not simply given or accomplished by ruling over someone with an iron fist. We are given examples of what authority and leadership should look like coming from a place of humility and service. The Apostle Paul led and served by learning what peoples' needs were and adapting in order to meet them where they were at in order to win them over for the sake of the gospel. We can look to Jesus Christ as our ultimate example of leadership and what Kingdom authority looks like. He set the example of what it means to serve and sacrifice not only by how he lived, but by taking his servant-leadership all the way to the cross and giving his life as a ransom for ours.

Pray

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks and praise for your Son Jesus Christ who showed us what service, love, and sacrifice should look like. We are grateful that rather than hold power and exercise authority over us, you graciously show us what servant-leadership looks like. Help us to follow the examples you have set out for us. Help us to love, serve, and lead like Jesus. In Jesus' name. Amen