

.....
“‘Thus says the Lord’ is typical of the Old Testament, but Jesus’ characteristic expression is ‘Truly, truly, I say to you.’ The difference is significant. Jesus appealed to no other authority as He spoke to men of the deep things of God.”

[Leon Morris]

ENGAGE & CONNECT ||

What made your favorite teacher so amazing?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER ||

Jesus, all authority in heaven and on Earth has been given to You. Help us to see the difference between Your authority and the lesser things we have been disciplined in. Grip us with Your truth and hold us tight through whatever else may try to hold a candle to Your blazing fire.

*“My hand made all these things,
and so they all came into being.
This is the LORD’s declaration.
I will look favorably on this kind of person:
one who is humble, submissive in spirit,
and trembles at my word.”*

[Isaiah 66:2]

BIG IDEA ||

The last two verses of the Sermon on the Mount tell us the crowd’s response to Jesus’ words. They give us an indication of how we should hear Jesus and how His words should impact us.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION ||

In the sermon we heard, “*God works through His word, and His word does the work.*” How is it different when you do the work versus when God’s word does the work?

Have someone read aloud Matthew 7:28-9. Consider having someone else read it aloud again, possibly in a different translation to gain another perspective (i.e. CEB, the Message, Amplified).

1. Who do you teach?
2. Who has disciplined you?
3. Some of the way Matt described Jesus’ teaching was “calm and gentle, invites faith, and not argumentative.” Have you heard people teach Jesus’ words in ways Jesus would not have taught Himself?

4. What voices speak into your life that you have to constantly decide not to follow? How do you combat the lies you're offered?
5. In the sermon, Matt mentioned that we sometimes feel a tension resisting deep inward change. Have you felt any tension points over the course of this series?
6. If the goal of discipleship is to live our lives the same way Jesus would live them, how is that going? Are you following Christ in ways this year that you weren't last year?
7. When Jesus gave the Great Commission, He said all authority has been given to Him in heaven and on Earth. Therefore, we should make disciples. What is your role in making disciples?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE ||

Being a disciple of Jesus means watching Him, listening to Him, and imitating His actions. **It also means living by His power for His purposes.**

As you consider your next step, reflect on: 1) If we learn by the authority of Christ, we must also learn to live by the power of Christ. 2) What can we ask Jesus to produce in us this week as He teaches and we are His students? What do we need MORE of from Jesus?

Step of Faith Ideas

1. Together, memorize 1 Thessalonians 5:24 "He who calls you is faithful; he will do it."
2. Let's ask God to accomplish every impossible thing we come against this week, no matter how big and no matter how small.

PRAYER FOCUS ||

By His Authority

As we close this series, take some time to reflect about what God has taught us through His word.

- Look at who you are discipling and pray for wisdom on how to do that well.
- Evaluate who is discipling you and ask if they are teaching like Jesus.
- Spend time in God's word being discipled by Jesus.
- Close your time by reading this prayer together:
 - *"Lord, be our teacher. Teach us to pray. Teach us to love. Teach us how to wake up and how to go to sleep. Teach us how to teach and how to learn. If there's anything we need to unlearn so we can walk differently, teach us how to grieve it and let it go and turn. Teach us the path to righteousness. Amen."*