**Who's Your Daddy?**

*John 8:37-47*

- Matt story
- "Who's Your Daddy" - who will you submit to, who has authority over your life.

*When we align ourselves with Christ we live in victory under the authority of our Heavenly Father.*

- First we will take a look at this ongoing conversation between Jesus and those who claimed to believe in him. Then there are three things we'll want to do in response: 1) Understand the importance of spiritual authority, 2) Put Satan in his place and 3) Exercise our spiritual authority in Christ.
- Remember Jesus has been talking with a group of Jews and has made some pretty bold claims - 1) Light of the World, 2) if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. Many professed belief - Jesus trying to help them understand exactly what that means.
- Previous section, Jews had pointed to heritage of Abraham as evidence they were not slaves. Jesus brings this back as opp. to talk about authority under me. And I said to one, 'Go,' and he went, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it.”
- Jesus not acting on own authority as a man but in the authority of the One who sent him - his Father.
- Luke 10, we see the 72 Jesus sent out exercising some of this same authority - healing sick, bringing God's message, "even the demons are subject to us in your name"

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41a - again, Jesus points out that if they have no sensitivity to God to be able to recognize His voice in the words of Christ, they must have a different father.

41b - must be feeling the heat of Jesus' argument b/c they start to lash out; sexual immorality - "we're not the illegitimate ones here"; change tune to now align selves with God as Father, which is what Jesus had been claiming all along; basis of claim = Exodus 4:22 *Israel is my firstborn son*

42 - Jesus lets the insult roll off and continues to press in to help the Jews realize the change that must take place in their hearts; not denying the OT truth, just calling into question its application to them; if they truly loved God, they would be in tune with Him enough to recognize and love the Son He sent; also begins to express that the authority he exhibits comes from Father - "came from God..."

43 - don't understand b/c incapable of hearing; hearing here means not just hearing but receiving and obeying; they couldn't receive his message b/c, as Jesus goes on to point out, they belonged to someone else

44 - if no love for Jesus, God not truly their Father...then someone else must be; the devil; since he is father, they do his desires - murder (Cain) and liar (Eden);

45 - this is why they don't believe Jesus

46 - if Jesus were lying they would be able to convict him, and yet if they can't convict him, he must be telling the truth...so why don't they believe him?

47 - logical conclusion, they weren't from God.

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I. **Understand the Importance of Spiritual Authority**

- talked last week about the authority Jesus exercised to heal sick, cast out demons, override the laws of nature; he spoke and happened;
- Matthew 8 - a Roman centurion understands; (v.8-9) "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”
- Jesus not acting on own authority as a man but in the authority of the One who sent him - his Father.
- Luke 10, we see the 72 Jesus sent out exercising some of this same authority - healing sick, bringing God's message, "even the demons are subject to us in your name"
• Created w/ authority to rule; not on own authority - exercising the authority of Father on basis of perfect relationship; gave it away when we sinned - rel. broken; now that relationship restored - begin to exercise authority once more
• In this Spiritual Warfare we are engaged in daily, it is crucial that we learn understand the Spiritual Authority we have been granted by the Father through our union with Christ. Satan, our chief enemy, will not give up easily and will try to convince us that he is still in control.

II. Put Satan in his Place
• What do we learn about Satan from today's passage and from other places in Scripture? 1) He is real; many Christians deny the existence of a personal devil but Jesus spoke very clearly about him here; he does NOT run around in red pajamas with a pitchfork; he DOES "prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8); 
• 2) He is a fallen being - murderer and a liar; primary tactics - fear and distortion of truth; 
• 3) He tries to deceive others into doing his will. 
• 4) Under authority of God; angel; created being who sinned and was cast out of God's presence; not free to do whatever he wants (Job) 
• 5) Limited being: not omniscient; not omnipotent; not omnipresent

III. Exercise our Spiritual Authority in Christ
• Reality is we have given Satan far too much credit, too much power, too much authority, too much influence in our lives. Certainly he is our adversary, we must never ignore or underestimate him, but we also do not need to fear or serve him. Through Christ we have spiritual authority over him.
• 1) Resist temptation - "The devil made me do it" is a cop out; he doesn't have power or authority to make you do anything; However, when we do give in to sin (or worse, live in sin), we are putting selves under his authority and opening door to his influence; when tempted, take authority over it
• 2) Take authority over demonic activity (even if just suspected) - rebuke and command them to leave
• 3) Bring the message of God into the world

• Follow God's words - "Whoever is of God hears (receives and obeys) the words of God."; Know God's Word (Jesus used in battle against Satan); Believe God's Word (defeats Satan's lies); Live God's Word 
• Choose this day - Who's your daddy?