



welcome!

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# **“This is us!” sermon series**

Past two sermons:

Part 1: We are on a mission

Part 2a: Covenant relationships



**This is us!**

» We are on a mission «

Part 3: Authority and submission

Bates Alheit

# God is a God of order

*(1 Corinthians 14:33a)*

33 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace...

- The more unity in the ranks, the more effectiveness in the battle.
- Shofar Secunda → Northern region → Shofar global → Other church movements

*(Ephesians 4:11-13)*

11 So **Christ himself gave** the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to **equip his people** for works of service, so that the **body of Christ may be built up** 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

- Order and Growth

# 1) God is the ultimate authority

(Isaiah 45:18)

For this is what the Lord says—he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited—he says: “I am the Lord, and there is no other”.

- God is the **Author** → Authority.
- God is the **Potter**.



## Definition of Authority

- The power to enforce laws, exact obedience, command, determine, or judge.

(American heritage dictionary of the English language)

- **Power** has to do with the **ability** to do something.
- **Authority** has to do with the **right** to do something.





God is the **source and the embodiment** of all authority.

## 2) God delegates His authority

*(Mark 9:35)*

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

- All human authority is delegated.

## a) Government to citizens

*(Romans 13:1-2)*

1 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is **no authority except that which God has established**. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

2 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

## **b) Husbands to wives**

*(Colossians 3:18-19)*

18 Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

## c) Church leaders to church members

*(Hebrews 13:17)*

17 Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.



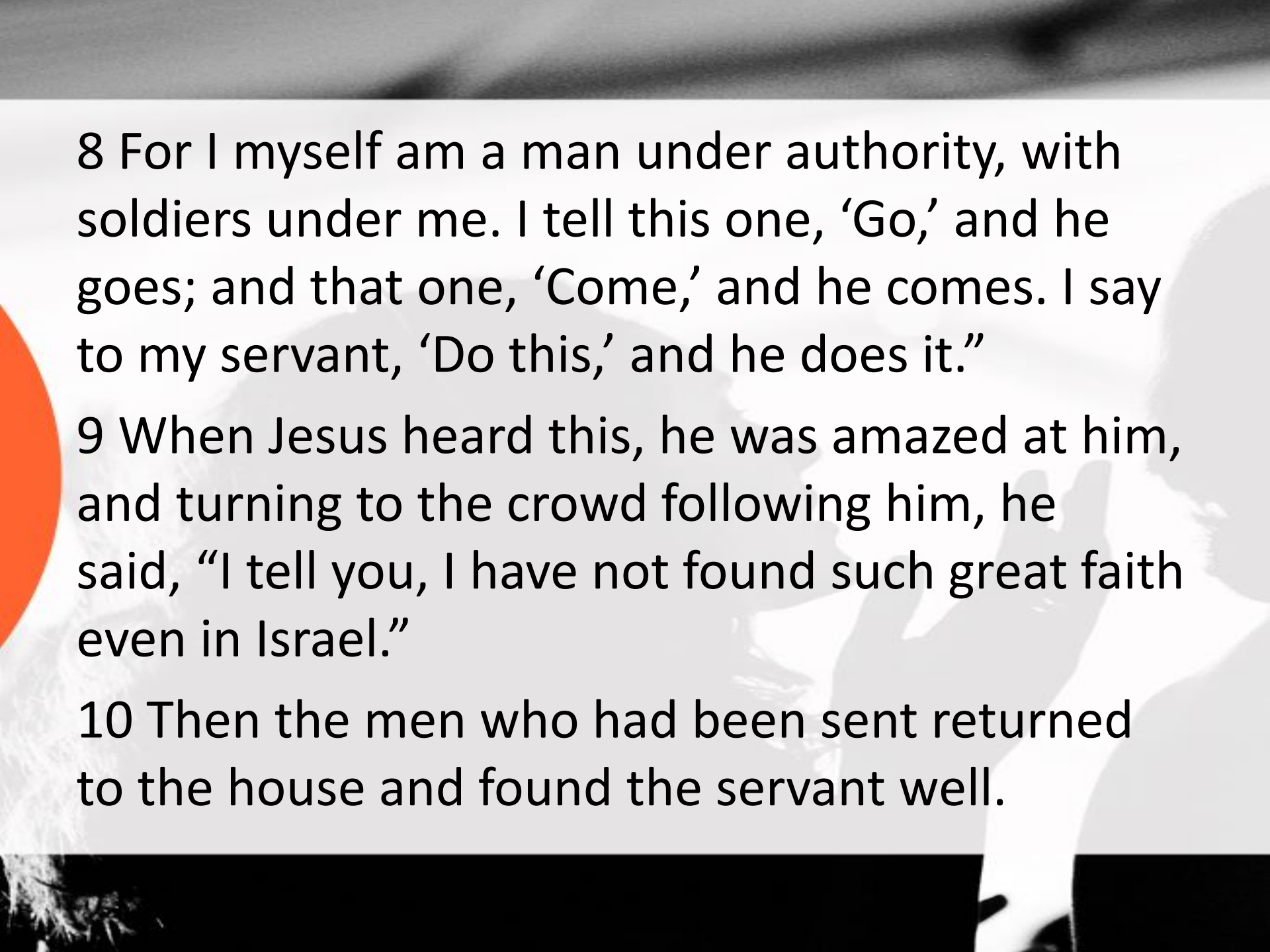
When we resist God's delegated authority figures, **we actually resist Him.**

### **3) The Roman centurion understood authority**

*(Luke 7:6-10)*

6 So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: “Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof.

7 That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed.



8 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

9 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel."

10 Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.





Understanding **Christ's authority** changes everything!

# What about the abuse of authority?

- **Submit** to all God delegated authority.
- **Bear up** under the pain of unjust suffering.
- **Emulate Christ** in his suffering.
- Do all that we do as **for the Lord and not for men.**

## 4) What submission is not

Submission to human authority **does not mean that:**

- We are never involved in the **decision making process.**
- Those who submit are **less important, less intelligent, or less godly** than those to whom we are told to submit.
- We follow human authority when it **clearly involves sin.**

**One valid reason** that a Christian has to disobey human authority.

When an authority requires a Christian to:

- **Not do** what God has **commanded** them to do, or
- **Do** what God has **prohibited** them to do.
- Can you support your disobedience from the Bible?

## 5) What submission is

### Definition of submission:

- The action of accepting or yielding to a superior force or to the will or authority of another person.
- A voluntary attitude of giving in, of cooperating, of sharing a burden.

- A **yielding and obedient attitude** of the heart
- An **attitude of co-operation and support**

*(Ephesians 5:21)*

21 submitting to one another **out of reverence for Christ.**

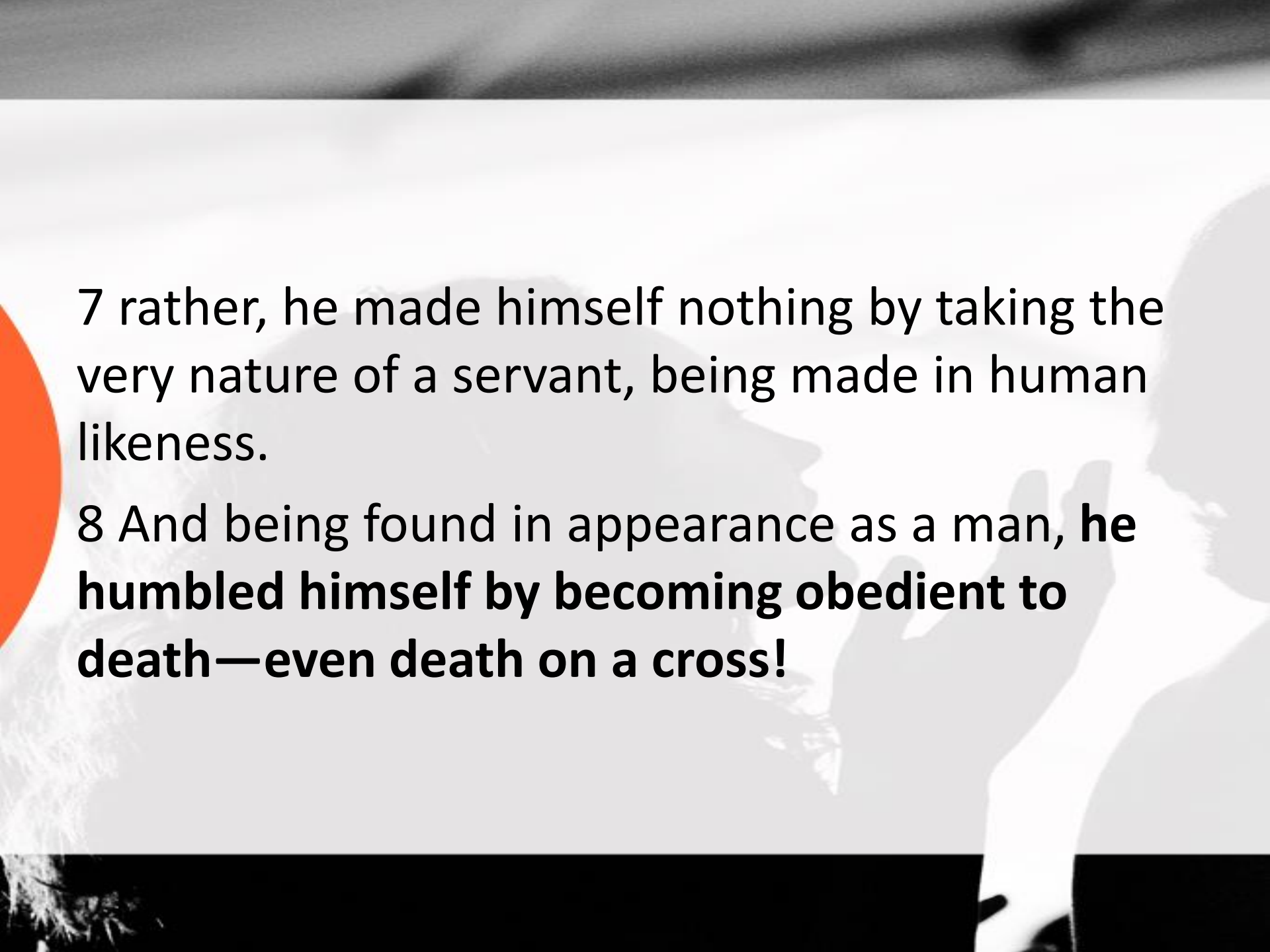
We submit **out of a reverence for Christ.**

## 6) Jesus submitted under the Father's authority

*(Philippians 2:5-8)*

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God, **did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;**



7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, **he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!**





Jesus submitted to the Father, we ought to do the same.

# 7) The blessings of submission in the Kingdom

- **Purpose** (Romans 8:28)
- **Protection** (Nahum 1:7)
- **Peace** (Philippians 4:6-7)
- **Provision** (Phil 4:18)