

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

The Same Authority

Jesus doesn't change. This is what we read in the Bible, e.g., Hebrews. At the conclusion... **Hebrews 13:8** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

THE SAME ALWAYS, PART 4: HIS AUTHORITY What's the same. What's the good. What's the challenge.

Our text this morning tells of an incident that demonstrated his authority. **Mark 4:35-41** On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "**Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?**" By his actions, he proved himself to be a person who has the right, the power, to give orders – orders to everyone and everything!

His authority was noticeable in his words: in the way he taught. **Mark 1:22** And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.

Mark 1:27 And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! And in more than his words of teaching. It was also revealed in his actions. He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."

At times he specifically taught people about his authority. **Mark 2:10,11** "... that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home."

And so did God the Father! [**Hebrews 1:12** "... But you are the same, and your years will have no end."]

Hebrews 1:8-12 But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom..."

WHAT'S THE SAME: The Lord Jesus Christ is in charge of the entire Universe.

WHAT'S THE GOOD:

That is, THE GOOD for the people who have entrusted themselves to Christ... **WHAT'S THE GOOD:** We are loved by the Man in charge of everything! **Q.** Now what sort of difference does that make to us?

A question for the single women in the 20's. What difference would it make if Mark Zuckerberg fell in love with you? *Would it make a difference?* (The inventor of Facebook. The world's richest 26 year old. A multi-billionaire. Forbes lists him as worth \$6.9 billion. 35th richest person in the world. And a lot of money means a lot of power.) *Would it make a difference to you?*

PERSONAL Q: *Would you rather be loved by Jesus?* Before you make your choice, take a moment to get your bearings. In fact, you will need God's help. Paul the apostle thought that the Christians in Ephesus did, and so he prayed for them... **Ephesians 1:15-21** For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

WHAT'S THE CHALLENGE: What difference IS IT making that you are loved by the Most Powerful Man in the World, "The Man in Charge of Everything"?

WHAT'S THE CHALLENGE: a) To live authentically under the authority of Christ..

Matthew 8:5-10 When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. And then he explains how he knows this... 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." When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.

Compare: **Luke 6:46** "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? But "living under his authority" doesn't just mean living in obedience to him. It also means living in acknowledgement that his permission is required for everything that happens! **James 4:13-16** Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

And it means living with the confidence appropriate to a person who works for such a great and powerful person.

And there's something else! b) To exercise the authority given to us in a Christlike way.

All human authorities acquire their authority from God himself → from Christ himself! **Romans 13:1-2** Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. This truth should impact our attitude towards people in authority under us --- and should impact our attitude toward our own authority.

The apostles received authority from Christ. **Mark 3:14-15** And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach and have authority to cast out demons.

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

But they (and we!) received very specific instructions about that exercise of that authority! **Mark 10:41-45** And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

NEXT WEEK: An Alliance Missions Sunday: Guest preacher: Bill Lobbezoo from our work in Cambodia