

Tri-State Community Church

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*Gathering a family who loves and serves God through
Jesus Christ and leads others in kind.*

Jesus' Authority

Luke 11:9-10

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Luke 11:9-10¹

⁹ *And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*
¹⁰ *For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.*

Great Bible teachers have often stressed three points in regards to our passage. They are 1) Jesus' authority 2) Jesus' promise 3) Jesus' testimony.² Today we will meditate on the first, Jesus' authority.

The great promise of Luke 11:9-10 comes to us from the very lips of Jesus. Look at the context of our passage. It begins when one of Jesus' *disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples"* (Luke 11:1).

Let us note that the disciples have a superior teacher, not that John the Baptist was a slouch. Jesus said of John, "*Truly, I say to you among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist*" (Matthew 11:11). John was a great man, but he was only a man. John said of Jesus, "*After me comes He who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to stoop down and untie*" (Mark 1:7).

The act of stooping down and untying a person's sandals was the act of a lowly servant. John is here saying that he is unworthy to be Jesus' lowly servant!

Jesus is the greatest teacher of all teachers. Those who heard Him remarked that He taught with authority—*And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes* (Mark 1:22).

Jesus can teach with awesome authority because He possesses awesome authority.

The Gospel of John informs us that: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*² *He was in the beginning with God.*³ *All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made* (John 1:1-3).

Who is the Word? Verse fourteen answers our question: *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth* (John 1:14).

The eternal Word who was eternally with God and is God is Jesus Christ!

¹ Unless indicated otherwise, all Scripture quotations are taken from the English Standard Version.

² For example, see Charles Spurgeon's sermon "Guaranteed to Succeed" at <http://www.biblebb.com/files/spurgeon/1091.htm>

The implications of this are staggering! This means that the sovereign Creator of the universe—the One who has made all things—has come to us in the person of Jesus.

If you had created all things then it would only be right that all things submit to you—you would rightfully own all things. Parents exercise similar sovereignty over their children whom they have not created how much more sovereignty belongs to Him who has created.

Paul writes, “*Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist*” (1 Corinthians 8:6). We exist for God and we exist through Christ.

The laws of science and physics all answer to Christ. The clock that steadily marches forward second by second answers to Christ. The sun which arises at its set time answers to Christ’s authority. The tides come in to their set boundaries and go no further than that which Christ has allotted. Christ has infinite authority. Jesus said this Himself: “*All authority on heaven and earth has been given to Me*” (Matthew 28:18).

Now if I told you “*ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you*” the notion may be wonderful but it would have limits. I am just a man. What happens to this notion when Christ tells you “*ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you*”? The notion becomes a promise backed by the infinite authority of Christ!

Now there is no possibility of failure because this promise comes from He whose authority knows no limits. Because of His infinite authority, Jesus can conclude saying, “*For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened*” (Luke 9:10).

This helps us with some of the questions that we concluded with last time namely, how can you be sure that your prayers are heard? It would be silly for Jesus to command us to pray if God was unable or unwilling to hear. And if God was unwilling to hear then Jesus could hardly guarantee us an audience. We can see from our text that Jesus is not only guaranteeing us an audience with God, He is guaranteeing us an answer.

How often are prayers lifted to God with little faith that there will ever be an answer? We would do good to reflect long on this. Next time we will consider the great promise of Luke 11:9-10. Until then, may God richly bless you.

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