

Life Group Notes 10/27/2024

Laura Coffman—Grounded Week 6 The Authority of Christ

[No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net. Thank you for taking the time—Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.]

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP.** BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! **Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Laura Coffman, our Kids and Family Ministry Director, has raised this week, 10/27. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.** I include each of the passages mentioned in full, to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes. Footnotes are not meant to distract. This week's footnotes include:

1. [On Satan's claim to "all these kingdoms and their glory 'given'" over to him.](#)
2. [On seeing Satan fall like lightning from heaven.](#)
3. [On the authority to trample on snakes and scorpions.](#)

*****Important:** At the very [end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week. ***

Laura began by telling stories from Kids' Ministries.

1. Do you have any?
2. Does your own testimony go back to your childhood and some kids' ministry? Can you share?
3. Laura says, "We get to sit in the front row and watch kids' lives being changed." Do you have a testimony?
4. She spoke of those moments of spiritual highs, as at a baptism, and how almost immediately after, testing and trials begin to happen as stress returns and life becomes difficult again. Do you have a testimony?
5. What struck you in Laura's message?

Look up Mark 1: [9](#)In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. [10](#)As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, He saw the heavens breaking open and the Spirit descending on Him like a dove. [11](#)And a voice came from heaven: "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased." [12](#)At once the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness, [13](#)and He was there for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and the angels ministered to Him.

1. What do you see?

2. What happens the moment after God speaks to Jesus?
3. Was this a “wilderness retreat” for Jesus?
4. How long did His trial last?
5. Besides just the hunger, who is at the source of His trial? Who is targeting Him?
6. List all the creatures that Mark says are with him.
7. What wild animals are found in the desert?
8. What might angels be doing in their ministry to Him? Do you have a testimony where everything was going wrong, but angels...?

Laura examined the same story from Luke’s perspective. Look up Luke 4: [1](#)Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, [2](#)where for forty days He was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He was hungry.

[3](#)The devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

[4](#)But Jesus answered, “**It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’**”

[5](#)Then the devil led Him up to a high place and showed Him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. [6](#)“I will give You authority over all these kingdoms and all their glory,” he said. “For it has been relinquished to me, and I can give it to anyone I wish. [7](#)So if You worship me, it will all be Yours.”

[8](#)But Jesus answered, “**It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.’**”

[9](#)Then the devil led Him to Jerusalem and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple. “If You are the Son of God,” he said, “throw Yourself down from here. [10](#)For it is written:

‘He will command His angels concerning You
to guard You carefully;

[11](#)and they will lift You up in their hands,
so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.’”

[12](#)But Jesus answered, “**It also says, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’**”

[13](#)When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.

1. What do you notice?
2. When did the devil show up? Did he stay the whole time? Or did he leave him for a period?
3. Did the devil ever leave him never to return? (Look at verse 13)
4. Why does the timing matter?
5. Laura says, “What I noticed is how much Christ’s suffering is like ours.” Explain.
6. What areas of our life was the devil testing?

Look up 1 John 2:[15](#)Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. [16](#)For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not from the Father but from the world. [17](#)The world is passing away, along with its desires; but whoever does the will of God remains forever.

1. Why does Satan begin his testing with the words, “If you are the Son of God...?” What was he seeking to have Jesus’ question?
2. What had God just told all who were listening at the river concerning Jesus?

3. How was Jesus being tested in the area of the desires of the flesh?
4. Laura listed several areas where we are tested in the desires of the flesh. Do you remember? She called it, "Exploring other options..." when the marriage is failing, or the pain and stress is too great, or the job doesn't satisfy. If man does not live by bread alone, what else is there to live by?
5. How was He tested in the area of the desire of the eyes? What did He see when He was shown the kingdoms of the world and all their glory?
6. How can a faith that permits one to move mountains or to throw oneself off the pinnacle of the temple knowing what the Promise says, become a matter of worldly pride, and not of saving faith?
7. Laura called this temptation "twisted truth." Explain.

She says, "The authority we see being wielded here in the wilderness is manifested when Jesus takes the scripture and He leans into Truth, the whole Truth and nothing but the Truth. Jesus starts to exercise authority that He hadn't up to this moment, namely His own authority. He did not think for one minute that His Father was going to let Him die of hunger. There was no thought that God had sent Him into the wilderness to starve to death."

1. What does that knowledge do? How does it strengthen? Explain.
2. Laura says, "How do we know we can do what Jesus did?" Answer her.
3. She says, "The first thing we need to know is this: If we cannot change our circumstance, we may need to change our perspective." How does that work?
4. She says, "He is going to show you what you believe," then she asks, "When you are hungry on day forty can you believe that dinner is at home?" She says, "Authority will start with knowledge, and it will amplify hope." How does that work?

Look up Ephesians 1:[13](#)*And in Him, having heard and believed the word of truth—the gospel of your salvation—you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, [14](#)who is the pledge of our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession, to the praise of His glory.* Laura calls these "checkboxes" in your authority.

1. Name them.
2. What came before believing?
3. What comes after hearing and believing?
4. What does the Holy Spirit bring with Him?

Laura shared the "parable" of her new car with the built in DVD player.

1. Before she knew there was a DVD player, did the car function as a car?
2. What did the knowledge of the DVD player add to her ability to drive the car?
3. What did the knowledge of the DVD player add to her appreciation of the car?
4. How did that knowledge change the twenty-one-hour drive with children from Missouri to NH?
5. Explain the advantage of knowledge.
6. Are there things Paul lists on the menu above that you have not availed yourself of?
7. Pray for each other now that we might have fullness upon fullness.

Look up Acts 5:[29](#)*But Peter and the other apostles replied, "We must obey God rather than men. [30](#)The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging Him on a tree. [31](#)God*

exalted Him to His right hand as Prince and Savior, in order to grant repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. [32](#)We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

1. What do you see?
2. Through whom does the Holy Spirit continue to witness these things today?
3. What comes with the Holy Spirit?
4. What is that authority capable of?

Look up Luke 10: [18](#)So He told them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. [19](#)[Behold, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. Nothing will harm you.](#) [20](#)Nevertheless, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

1. What do you see?
2. When did Jesus see Satan fall like lightning from heaven?
3. See [footnote 3 below](#). Is this authority that of a believer? Or only that of the disciples in Luke 10?
4. How does “authority” (Greek—*exousia*) trump “power” (Greek—*Dunamis*).

Laura traces Jesus’ own rise to authority. She says, “Jesus uses this authority. He hears His word. He believes His word. He trusts Him and He obeys and is baptized. Then He receives the Holy Spirit, receiving authority. And once He receives this authority starts using that authority. We see Him relying on His knowledge of the Truth to get Him through the situation. Look at Paul’s prayer in Ephesians 1:[16](#) *I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, [17](#)that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in your knowledge of Him.*

1. What will this spirit bring with Him?
2. How does knowing Him equate to knowing His authority?
3. How does knowing His authority equate to knowing what authority has been delegated to us?

Read on: [18](#) *I ask that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know the hope of His calling, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, [19](#)and the surpassing greatness of His power to us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of His mighty strength, [20](#)which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, [21](#)far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. [22](#)And God put everything under His feet and made Him head over everything for the church, [23](#)which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

1. Why do we need the eyes of our heart enlightened? What are we missing?
2. How does knowledge equate to power?
3. How much power?
4. What is the hope of God’s calling for you? Do you know?
5. Look at Matthew 7: [28](#) *When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astonished at His teaching, [29](#)because He taught as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.* In the context of Paul’s prayer, what did Jesus wield as He taught? Who benefitted?
6. How does Jesus’ teaching equate to our teaching? What are we missing?
7. Where does the knowledge Paul prayed for us to have come from?

8. Laura points out that Jesus did *no* miracles before his baptism followed by His time in the wilderness. What does we learn from the knowledge that Jesus lived around thirty years before working a single miracle?
9. How does God's timing explain this? Explain.
10. How do you step into the authority you have? Do you remember the steps?
11. Why was the knowledge of the DVD player in the car the important first step in keeping children happy?

Once again, review Acts 19:¹While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the interior and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples ²and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" "No," they answered, "we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³"Into what, then, were you baptized?" Paul asked. "The baptism of John," they replied. ⁴Paul explained: "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the One coming after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶And when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. ⁷There were about twelve men in all. Remember, Apollos, their teacher, only knew the baptism of John when he introduced the Ephesian disciples to the gospel.

1. How were the Ephesian disciples limited as Laura was in her car, without knowledge of the gift?
2. How did Paul change the church of Ephesus, as Laura's nephew discovered the DVD player?
3. What does the knowledge of the Holy Spirit bring with it?
4. What is the first step in knowing God?
5. Do you remember what practical steps Laura mentioned?
6. What steps have you taken?
7. Take a moment to pray over God's purpose in your life, as He is beginning to reveal it?
8. Pray Paul's prayer from Ephesians 1 over you and your group and your family.

The Follow-up Application

1. Use the [SOAP journal studies](#) below throughout the week.
2. Pray Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1 over you and your family in the morning, each morning.
3. Pray Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3 over you and your family in the evening, each evening.

Take the time to pray.

Scribe's Notes:

1. **On Satan's claim to "all these kingdoms and their glory 'given' over to him**—In Luke 4, [shown above](#), Satan makes a surprising, albeit dubious claim. ⁶"I will give You authority over all these kingdoms and all their glory," he said. "For it has been relinquished to me, and I can give it to anyone I wish. ⁷So if You worship me, it will all be Yours." It is remarkable that Jesus

did not contest the claim, but rather, opposed the claim with the commandment of God, His duty to His Father. We know that when God created the heavens and the earth, all dominion, thrones and authority was delegated to Adam over the whole earth. That which Satan is claiming here was once Adam's authority. Is it possible that when Adam bowed the knee to the serpent, he relinquished his authority to the serpent? The Greek seems to buttress the claim. The verb Satan, the enemy, uses here is παραδίδωμι, *paradidomi*, and it means, "properly, to give (turn) over; 'hand over from,' i.e. to deliver over with a sense of close (personal) involvement." It is the verb that describes Judas' betrayal of Jesus, and John the Baptist's betrayal to authorities when Herod had him arrested. In refusing to accept Satan's offer of the realms whose authority he had only usurped from Adam when he fell and betrayed his race, Jesus established Himself as Adam's rightful son and true heir. He was soon to wrest back the authority that had been stolen.

2. **On seeing Satan fall "like lightning from heaven..."**—Only six chapters after Jesus' encounter with Satan in the wilderness, in [chapter 10](#), Jesus rejoices with the seventy he had sent out, who returned saying, "Even the demons are subject to us in your name." What Jesus says next evokes what Jesus foresaw at His encounter in the wilderness. There, Satan made the claim to an authority that wasn't rightly his, and this statement indicates that Jesus foreknew the downfall. This statement is often misunderstood to claim that He saw Satan fall from heaven. The verb ἑθεώρουν, *etheoroun*, in the imperfect tense (I was seeing, contemplating or watching as an audience watching a play), doesn't allow for that interpretation. Jesus was seeing Satan's downfall from the region, *not* from heaven, but as swiftly AS lightning that falls from heaven. The Book of Revelation says it all happens in one hour. In Luke 10 it all happened at the hands of seventy disciples.
3. **On the authority to trample on snakes and scorpions**—This delegation is one of the clearest expressions of what Jesus has delegated to believers. When Jesus says, "I have given you..." the verb is ἔδωκα, *edoka*, in the perfect active tense. The precision of the Greek language makes this verse all the more clear: "*The perfect tense has **completed** aspect and present time, equivalent to the English, 'I have done.'*" It is completed and irreversible. This is the authority we wield, and our power surpasses that of the enemy. I have given you the *exousia*/authority to trample all the *dunamis*/miracle working power, anything the enemy can muster against you. The enemy, according to this promise, has been disarmed. In terms of Laura's message today, this could be the DVD player that the church needs to take advantage of today.

For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP**... (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—What is God saying? / **P**ray—What is your response?) ...method to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: Mark 1:9-13
Tuesday: Luke 4:1-13
Wednesday: 1 John 2:15-17
Thursday: Ephesians 1:11-14
Friday: Acts 5:29-32
Saturday: Luke 10:18-20
Sunday: Ephesians 1:16-23

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.