

The Authority of Jesus

Just as Jesus got back to Capernaum, they came up to him to ask for a favor. You see, this outsider – a Roman centurion, an officer in the army of the foreign oppressors – he had a servant who was very ill, and apparently the illness had baffled the doctors, and so he was requesting from Jesus a miracle of healing for this servant.

There's a whole long conversation that could happen here, about who is worthy to ask for a miracle, and whether oppressors deserve to get favors when they are already demanding tribute. But on this occasion they managed to get past that question fairly quickly, and Jesus said he would come and heal the sick servant.

"No, wait. That won't be necessary," said the centurion. "It's not like you have to actually show up in person. All you need to do is command. I understand how authority works," he said. "I'm in the army. My superior officers have authority over me: they issue a command, and I carry it out. I've got soldiers under my authority, and I tell them what to do, and they do it. All it takes, Jesus, is a command from you."

That's what the centurion said. Do you think he was right? Do you think that all it takes is a command from Jesus, and then it's as good as done? Watch out now – this is a trick question!

Because if we say Yes (and the answer is indeed supposed to be Yes) then it means that it's as good as done when Jesus gives a command *to us* – because of course we are going to do whatever Jesus commands us to do. Yet you know, from your own record, that sometimes we do what Jesus says, and sometimes we don't.

We tend to talk about authority as if it's a question of doctrine: as if the authority of scripture is a concept that should be understood in a certain way. But what the centurion's answer tells us is, authority is measured not by how we understand it, but by how we obey it.

Think about the command of Jesus that you have the hardest time with. Which one is it? The one about making disciples of all nations? The one about loving your enemies? The one about generous giving? The one about forgiving the person you are holding a grudge against? If you believe in the authority of Jesus, it's not simply about understanding those commands. It's certainly not about explaining them away. It's about doing what he says.

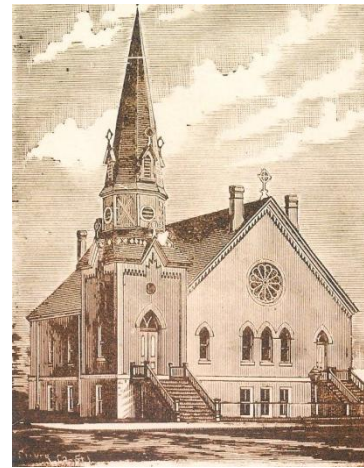
Here's my question. As a follower of Jesus, what are you going to do, to demonstrate the authority of Jesus by your obedience to his call?

Jay Ayers

On The Wind

A Publication of the
Presbytery of Southern Kansas
March 2013

www.pbysk.org



First Presbyterian Church Winfield Celebrates Their 140 Year Birthday

January 19, 2013 marked the 140th birthday of the First Presbyterian Church, Winfield. Pastor James Platter came to Winfield at age 26 and began the church construction at the north east corner of 10th and Millington in 1874, the "grasshopper year."



A cornerstone for the new building at 11th and Millington was laid on July 14, 1912, and then on May 21, 1953 the cornerstone was laid for the new Christian Education building. For this special 140 year celebration the church honored seven members with 40+ years serving as Ruling Elders; five members with 40+ years of service as Deacons; two with 70+ years of membership; 14 with 60+ years of membership and 23 with 50+ years of membership!

PSK Mexico Mission Trip

May 24 - 31, 2013

Hermosillo, Mexico

To see a brochure? Visit www.pbysk.org



What could be more fun than playing in a table covered with shaving cream? **NOTHING!** Just ask the kids at **Brotherhood Pre-School.**



Presbyterian Youth Triennium

July 16-20, 2013

Purdue University

PSK Contact? Don Bromlow
donbromlow@gmail.com

Registration Forms?

Visit www.pbysk.org

Sleep"Less" in Sterling

Theme: "Casserole"

March 8-10, 2013

Sterling College Campus

Registration deadline? Feb 27, 2013

PSK Contact? Bob Barrett

620-262-6129 or stuccomango@yahoo.com

Registration form and information?

Visit www.pbysk.org

PSK Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

First Presbyterian Church, Derby

9:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

For reservations contact: Sherry Mayberry
at 316-788-2831 or fpccderby@swbell.net



(l-r) Ken Coryell and Ernie Hull happily survey the 214 buckets stacked in the church sanctuary.



PSK Disaster Response Team challenged the PSK churches to assemble 200 clean up buckets for the Feb 16th Presbytery meeting. The churches met the challenge with **214 buckets**. These will now travel to Ferncliff and onto Church World Services for distribution to those in need.

"Clean Up Bucket Brigade" from First Presbyterian, El Dorado sanctuary to the awaiting trailer.

Congratulations!

Deb Schmidt's Installation Service will be Sunday, March 3, 2013, at 3:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, Wellington, KS.



Paula Steinbacher's Ordination Service will be Sunday, March 17, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, Arkansas City, KS.



Paula not only delivered the worship service message at the Presbytery meeting but also joined in the "Bucket Brigade" that moved PDA Clean Up Buckets from the sanctuary outside to the trailer.