

Advancing the Kingdom of God V

^{NKJ} **Matthew 9:35** Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the **gospel of the kingdom**, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. ³⁶ But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. ³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, "The **harvest** truly is plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. ³⁸ "Therefore pray the Lord of the **harvest** to send out laborers into His harvest."

I

The kingdom of God is an ever increasing *realm* of *influence*.

Consider **Matthew 10:1**

Authority is the *permission* to release God given *ability*.

For authority to be *exercised* it must first be *recognized*.

II

All authority exists by His permission.

There are levels of authority...

1. God is the ultimate authority **Romans 13:1**
2. The word-truth **Isaiah 55:11**
3. The church **Ephesians 1:22**
4. Government **Proverbs 8:15**
5. Conscience **Romans 13:5** and **Romans 2:14-15**
6. Tradition **Matthew 15:6**

7. Functional authority or ability **1Peter 4:11**

III

When delegated authority is operating within its God appointed sphere it is legitimate.

Consider **2 Corinthians 10:12-16**

When delegated authority operates outside its God given sphere it is *trespassing*.

When delegated authority is resisted in its legitimate operation it is *rebellion*.

All sin is an offense to the *holiness* of God.

Rebellion resists and comes against the *authority* of God.

Rebellion is dealt with *swiftly* and *harshly* in the bible.

Consider **Numbers 16** Korah's rebellion and **Acts 12:21-23** Herod's sudden death.

When the kingdom is declared we must stay in our sphere of delegated authority to Advance the Kingdom of God!

*Rhema Christian Center
Dr. La Fayette Scales, Apostle
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