

We have a lost and found area at WOWC where things that have been lost are kept until they are claimed. It's located off the lobby area as you pass through the hallway to the fellowship hall. If after a time, items are not claimed we donate those items.

- A lost and found accumulates items either because people don't know something they had is lost or they do not care that it has been lost because it has little value, so they don't try to find it.
- Most of the things in the lost and found, by the way are bibles; that have accumulated for inordinate amounts of time unclaimed. Therefore UNUSED!

Today, I want to speak on the subject of:

“Lost and Found – Reclaiming Your Spiritual Authority”

Many believers today have lost their spiritual authority and don't know where to find it. I want us to look at what God intends for **your call to rule your world!**

- **Many believers have lost, abdicated our right to rule.**
- Because we have abdicated our right to rule; we are being ruled by that which is illegitimate.
- We are allowing ourselves to be ruled by circumstances, people, problems, challenges who are calling the shots for us because we have lost sight of our spiritual authority.
- **I want us to address what it means to have spiritual authority and how we are to use that spiritual authority.**
- Duet. 28:13- is God's promise to His people: **“And the Lord shall make you the head, and not the tail; and you shall be above and not be beneath; if you listen to the commands of the Lord and observe them.”**

We need to understand the Foundational Theology of our right to rule **The** world which will lead us to the responsibility of ruling **Your** world.

Gen. 1: God demonstrated His Creative genius in creating the world simply by speaking it into existence.

- We continually read that: “It was so and it was good.”
- Through five days, God has created the spectacular earth with all the components for life to be fully lived.
- Then the sixth day arrives: God sets forth His crowning achievement –
- **V. 26-** “Then God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”
- **V. 27** – Says: “God created them.”
- **V. 28-** Says: “God blessed them.”
- God cannot be disconnected from all the rest of this story of creation: God said it, God created it, and God blessed it.

1. **V. 26** – “God said, Let us make man in Our image and likeness.” The second mentioning of His plurality of the God-head. “**Let US**”
 - “We are making man and making man like US, and then WE are going to let them rule earth.”
 - We are going to turn the ruler ship of the earth over to man and put it in their hands.
 - God delegated to mankind the full responsibility of caring for His creation.
 - God moved from direct control – [up until this time God was doing all the work!]
 - God was taking care of everything and setting everything up, but on the sixth day; God said – “We are going to turn over the running and the management/stewardship and handling of earth and place it in the hands of man.
 - God has endowed the human race with both the **opportunity** and the **responsibility** for handling stuff HE made.
 - God said: “WE are going to give man dominion of the world that WE have created.”
 - That’s not a small thing because God is saying: “WE are going to remove Ourselves from the direct control and give the direct control over to man in terms of managing the affairs of the world.

This explains why so much of the things God created and put into motion have become messed up:

- Along with God giving the responsibility to man, He also gave the freedom to make the decision about the direction that the earth will go.
- So if the earth goes bad, it’s because the decision to make it go bad has been handed over to the human race.
- This is not Deism: The belief that God created and then wound up all of creation and then stepped back to let it run its own course till time was up. Kinda like winding an old style alarm clock up and letting it run till the alarm went off or it ran down and stopped.
- God has not given up His ownership of the earth: Psa. 24:1 “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness of it; the world and they that dwell in it.”
- Man is not given the ownership of earth; just the **managerial responsibility** of it.
- We have all experienced when we turn something over to somebody else that they mess up!
- It’s not because it wasn’t right when you turned it over – it’s because they mishandled what you gave them.
- **God turned over to man the managerial responsibility and would in certain boundaries respect man’s decisions – even when some of the decisions were against Him – not in their own best interests or would even hurt others.**
- Because God said: “Let THEM rule.”

- Psa. 8:3-6, 9- “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers; the moon and the stars, which You have ordained. What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?
For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor.
You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet.”
v.9- “O Lord, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth.”
- David not only praises God for His greatness of the creation; but for the majesty He’s given to man.
- God has placed a crown on the head of every human being and called him majestic and having been created with honor.
- **That’s why the enemy doesn’t want you to know that you have a crown!**
- If the enemy can keep you from thinking like a king and queen; then he can keep you from acting like a king and queen – he can make you think you are a fool, so he can make you act like a fool because you don’t know about the majesty the Lord has given to you.

Ex. 7:1- “The Lord said to Moses, see, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet.”

- “You go tell Pharaoh to let MY people go and when I send you to Pharaoh; I’m going to make you like God to Pharaoh.
- Pharaoh is god to the Egyptian people: their culture elevated him to this status.
- Pharaoh is in charge in Egypt – the known powerful world; but when I send you – I’m going to make you like Me to Pharaoh.
- God didn’t make Moses God, but he would be like God to Pharaoh.
- **What God was telling Moses and telling us is: “Even in a pagan environment; you are going to rule!”**

We have been given so much responsibility and freedom to rule that we can give away our rule - you can’t give away something you don’t have.

What many of God’s people have done is given away our spiritual authority:

Luke 4 – when Jesus was being tempted by the devil; the devil said all the kingdoms of the world were handed over to him and were his to now give to whomever he wanted. He offered it to Jesus. Jesus did not deny the devil’s claim the world was his to give away!

The enemy obtained the world when Adam forfeited his rule and gave up his authority over the earth.

As Adam did, many have done – given over the spiritual authority Jesus purchased for us.

This authority is so important that God will wait on our decision before He decides what He is going to do on the earth:

- **You are significant to the plans and purposes of God on the earth-**

God has boundaries around His creation; but we are free to call our own plays- Like a football game: there are boundaries the game must be played in, but you can run your plans. Or Rule your own plays.

But-He is never going to give up being God, so there will always be **boundaries**. The play you call determines the authority you have or exercise in this life.

Psa. 115:16- “The heavens even the heavens, are the Lord’s; but the earth He has given to the children of men.”

Whenever God has wanted to do something on earth; He has had to and will have to find a person! He finds somebody through whom to do it!

He creates an Adam

He finds a Noah

He locates an Abraham

He preserves a Moses

He raises up a judge

He identifies a prophet

He anoints a King David

And when it really got bad on earth – He came Himself as a man!

He becomes a man, because He must rule through a man – “**Let them rule!**”

The enemy doesn’t want you to get this truth because:

- **You might start thinking like a ruler-**
- **You might start living like a ruler-**
- **You might start talking like a ruler-**

God gives legal authority within His boundaries to operate the earth in.

You are God’s go between in heaven and earth.

Psa 8 – “You are made a little lower than God, not a little higher than apes!

2. Gen. 1:27- “So **God created man** in His own image; in the image of God He created Him: male and female He created them.”

- Created in Our image – He created them-
- **He didn't just create us – He created us in His image and likeness.**

God mirrored Himself in you – He created a reflection of Himself in each of us.
 God reflected Himself in this physical sphere called earth – using the dirt of the earth to create Adam which was a reflection of the Image of God.

The reflection of God in us is of a spiritual nature – because God is Spirit.
 This is His nature. It's His person.

God in the physical being created a spiritual reality – God breathed into the nostrils of man the breath of life and Adam became a living soul.

There is an immaterial part in Adam that does not belong to any other of the created order:

That's why evolutionists are so dedicated to their belief:

- If you are based on coming from an ape or a one celled amoeba then you are a devolution of man. All you are is a higher form of an animal.
- But if you've been crowned with honor and glory because you have been uniquely created; then you don't want an ape standing next to you. You don't want a cow standing next to you – you don't want a horse standing next to you.
- We are supposed to rule them – **they are not standing next to us as if they were our family!**

Man and man alone is created in the Image of God where the spiritual is placed in the physical.

This is what makes us different from anything else in the creation.

Evolution is not just a system of how things came about – it is a philosophy of **identification!**

- It's who you are!
- That's why they have to get rid of God, because they can't track this thing back to God – because if it tracks man's existence back to God – they have a problem.
- He has to be atheistic in his argumentation and be consistent with that belief.
- Until he makes a monkey out of you!

God creates us to rule with Him and there must be a connection:

We are a mirror of His reflection and glory. We are to reflect in the physical the reality of what we are in the spiritual – in the image of God created to rule the earth.

We are what 2Cor. 6:1- says: “We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you...”

God will provide the spiritual because we have His image.

WE provide the physical because that is the realm we live in on earth.

So the way God gets His spiritual done in a physical realm is through a being that has both!

The two are brought together in the image of God and the physical body that carries His image.

The enemy has caused us to separate the two apart:

- So we have the spiritual on Sunday and the physical on Monday – Saturday.
- No, we are created with the Divine stamp and mark: God still owns, but man governs.

God’s ruler ship given to man was never to be apart from God’s image:

- There are many today that want the ruler ship without the image of God.
- Everybody wants to rule and call the shots, but what they don’t want is the Image.
- They don’t want the spiritual to be integrated into the human ruler ship.
- So God is cast aside and we have to live with the consequences of mans decisions of ruler ship without His image.

We were created in the Image – God waits on us to rule – however long it takes:

That’s why there are delays taking place.

To wait on the Lord – doesn’t mean to sit down and do nothing.

To wait on the Lord – means don’t go outside of God to get it done!

Using God’s methods and His direction to get it done!

Many believers have wasted many years and resources of their lives never ruling in life.

3. **v. 28-** “**God Blessed them**, be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

- Everybody wants to be blessed: What is a blessing?
- A blessing is enjoying and extending the goodness of God.
- How He blessed them: He blessed them then:
- **He blessed them by resourcing the place where they were supposed to rule.**
- God didn’t call them to do something that He didn’t provide for.

- **A blessing is when God resources your calling!**
- **A blessing is when God provides what is needed to get done what He told you to do!**
- **You know you're blessed when:**
 1. You're enjoying the goodness of God in spite of the trials and tribulations associated with it.
 2. There is something left over.

Contentment is giving me what I need.

Blessing is when what God has given you what you need for your needs is met and you can spill over and use that to be a blessing to somebody else.

When God blesses you, there will be something left for overflow because God never just stops with you.

God resources what He has created you to do and He made provision for what He expects you to get done.

The beautiful thing about ruling your world is that God supplies for the world He wants you to rule!

You have to get connected to the right world – the one God has called you to be in Your Garden before His resources will work for you.

You can't cross over and try to live and reign in somebody else's world and expect God's provision to work for you.

God supplies what He has called you to.

Once you leave what He's called you to – it won't work.

God is not interested in helping you rule somebody else's world or in helping you help the devil to rule yours.

People say they are waiting on God:

- It's like the person sitting by their phone waiting on God to make the phone ring for a job.
- It ain't gonna happen.
- You have to get up, get cleaned up and go out and look for that job.

Ex: Matt 6 - The birds don't worry and get uptight about their provision:

- They don't need pepto – bismol and ulcer meds.

The bible says: God supplies their needs. Do you know how many birds there are? When's the last time you saw a bird on a branch with its beak open waiting on God to drop worms from heaven?

You'll never see that: He's waiting on the Lord quoting the Bible: "Yeah, you said you'd meet all my needs, I need a worm."

But the bird is confident that when it goes worming looking – it will go worm finding! God's got a worm for me – some place.

That bird can get up and fly and be confident that the provision has already been made and it will find a worm.

God says: I'm waiting on you; it's been two years, ten years – I'm still waiting on you.

There is responsibility and involvement in the creative process.

God will go with you, God will rule with you as long as His Image is being kept consistent as a part of you.

People say:

- How can there be a good God and there is so much pain – The Lord says: "Let them rule."
- How can there be a good God and there be so much war – "Let them rule!"
- How can there be a good God and there be child abuse – "Let them rule!"
- How can there be a big God and such much crime – "Let them rule!"

God has decided: **You can rule with ME or you can rule without Me, but you get to rule!**

The question is: Do you want to go to the lost and found and locate your rule that you have yet to find or do you want to say: It's gone and I don't know where it is?

You hear at every football game a coach telling to his players: **DOMINATE – DOMINATE – DOMINATE.**

- **Yeah coach, but their hitting us hard, they're blocking us, they're not letting us get through.**
- **But you have to dominate because that is who you are!**
- **Dominate – Dominate – Dominate!**