

Abusing Authority

I. Introduction:

A. From the beginning of creation, man has been given authority from God (**Genesis 1:26-31**).

1. Civil government roles (**I Peter 2:13-17**).
2. Household roles (**Colossians 3:18-4:1**).
3. Roles in the local church (**I Corinthians 12:27-29**).

B. What we see in the Scriptures is that roles of authority should be roles of service rather than roles abused (**II Corinthians 1:24**, **II Corinthians 12:11**, and **I Peter 5:1-3**).

1. The highest authority figure ever on earth was Jesus (**John 3:35**, **John 5:22-23**, and **Acts 10:34-36**).
2. Consider how He handled authority (**John 13:1-17**).

II. Body: An Example Of Abuse Of Power (**Ezekiel 34:1-10**).

A. They were destructive to the people (**Jeremiah 23:1-2**).

1. They didn't lead the people back to God (**Jeremiah 23:11-15**).
2. The people were foolish and loved being abused by their leaders (**Jeremiah 5:21-31**).

B. The shepherds were money hungry and thought nothing of it (**Micah 3:11**).

1. Only looking out for their own profit (**Isaiah 56:9-12**).
2. The leaders were predators (**Ezekiel 22:25-31**).
3. At one point before the days of Jeremiah and Ezekiel, even the wife of a king took advantage of her role (**I Kings 21:1-24**).
4. Not that all who abuse power are after material gain (**III John 1:9-11**).

C. The people were led to destruction (**Jeremiah 50:6**).

1. Led or not, those led answer as do their leaders (**Isaiah 9:16**).
2. You heard that right. Both the leader and the ones being led answer for going astray (**Matthew 15:1-14**).

D. Thankfully, our authority figure is not like the erring shepherds of Israel's past (**John 10:1-18**).

1. Jesus is the Shepherd that does bring back (**I Peter 2:21-25**).
2. He was/is not after His own interests (**Ephesians 5:2**).
3. His return is something to look forward to (**I Peter 5:4**).

III. Conclusion: In whatever position of authority you find yourself in on this earth, remember your role (**Luke 17:7-10**, **I Corinthians 11:3**, and **Galatians 5:13-17**).