What Does Authority Mean To Me?

Importance of Doctrine = Importance of Authority

- If we may <u>believe</u> anything . . . we may <u>do</u> anything
- What is authority?

102x in NT: right/power to do something; permission

 If we may do one thing without authority... we may do all things without authority

Authority

- Mt.7:29, His teaching: truth certainty
- Mt.9:6,8, authority in action (forgiveness)
- Mt.10:1, delegated authority to apostles
- Mt.28:18, universal truth

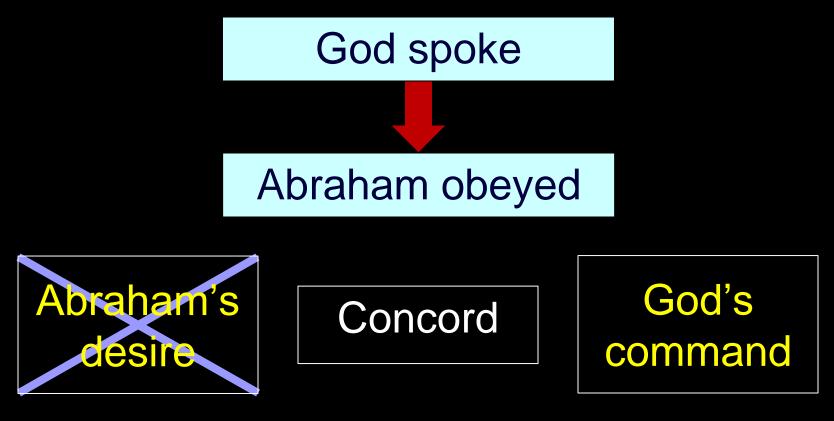
Mt.21:23...

- Rabbis quoted authorities; skilled in excuses rather than honest discussion of facts
- Lowly Jews rightly held John as a prophet
- Priests / elders 'cannot tell' what they believe
 - Dishonest fear; defeat at hands of this despised Nazarene
- 28-32, blistering indictment: tale of two sons...
 - Not enough to believe truth...
- Ja.2:10, to ignore authority leads to a 'do all things' without it attitude.

James 2

¹⁰ For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. ¹¹ For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

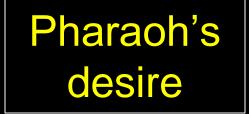
1. Abraham, Gn.22



Mt.26:29 . . . Hb.5:7-9

2. Pharaoh, Ex.5:1-2





Conflict



3. Centurion, Mt.8
Helpless, 5 [nothing <u>he</u> can do...]
Humility, 5-6 [Lord; 8, not worthy]
Faith, 8 [Just say the word...healed]
Respect, 9 [man under authority]

Full Exact Prompt obedience obedience response ("Go!") ("he goes") ("cured")

4. Pharisees, Mt.19:3...7

- 1. Instead of humility, tested Him, 3
- 2. Instead of faith, argued, 7
- 3. Instead of respect, effort to defeat, 7

Then Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees" –Mt.16:6 [13:33; 1 Co.5:6]

5. Diotrephes, 3 John 9-10 Parallel to Pharaoh and Pharisees –

¹Ambition. Col.1:18 (1 Co.14:37)

²Rejection. Lk.10:16

³Defamation [talks wicked nonsense]

⁴Exclusion. 'My way or highway.'

II. Diligence

What is diligence?

Earnest and persistent application to an undertaking; steady effort.

Ex.39-40, three components –

- a. Concentrate on task, 39:43...
- b. Care about the task, 40:16, 19, 21, 23...
- c. Complete the task, 40:33

In pursuit of diligence

- Corinthians: 2 Co.7¹¹ For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What <u>diligence</u> it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.
- Titus: 2 Co.8¹⁷ For he not only accepted the exhortation, but being <u>more diligent</u>, he went to you of his own accord.

II. Diligence



Nehemiah 8 Willing, 1 – believe God Obedient, 3 – go wherever God leads Respectful, 5 – honor His will Submissive, 6 – accept His Word Hunger, 7 – eager to learn His Word Intent on understanding, 8 – active listeners Passionate, 9, 12 – emotions

Nehemiah 8 Willing, 1 – believe God Obedient, 3 – go wherever God leads Respectful, 5 – honor His will Submissive, 6 – accept His Word Hunger, 7 – eager to learn His Word ntent on understanding, 8 – active listeners Passionate, 9, 12 – emotions

II. Diligence

III. Study

IV. Discernment

Illustrations

To perceive or recognize the difference

- Right wrong
- Light darkness
- Truth error

Joseph, Gn.41:33, 39 Priests, Ezk.44:23 Phar./Sadd., Mt.16:3

Phil.1:9, *love in discernment* (with discrimination,10) 1 Jn.2:16, *love not*...

Authority illustrated

No church treasury	Misuse funds
No building	Recreation center
No evangelism	Missionary Society
General authority: includes means	Specific authority: excludes rivals

Col.3:17