

What Does Authority
Mean To Me?

Importance of Doctrine = Importance of Authority

- If we may believe anything . . . we may do 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.

I. Obedience

1. Abraham, Gn.22

God spoke



Abraham obeyed

~~Abraham's
desire~~

Concord

God's
command

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

2. Pharaoh, Ex.5:1-2

God spoke



Pharaoh disobeyed

Pharaoh's
desire

Conflict

~~God's
command~~

3. Centurion, Mt.8

1. Helpless, 5 [nothing he can do...]
2. Humility, 5-6 [Lord; 8, not worthy]
3. Faith, 8 [Just say the word...healed]
4. Respect, 9 [man under authority]

Prompt
response
("Go!")

Full
obedience
("he goes")

Exact
obedience
("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. Diotrefes, 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.'

I. Obedience

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 diligence 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 more diligent, he went to you of his own accord.

I. Obedience

II. Diligence

III. Study

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

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IV. Discernment

Illustrations

To perceive or recognize the difference

□ Right – wrong

Joseph, Gn.41:33, 39

□ Light – darkness

Priests, Ezk.44:23

□ Truth – error

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