



November 7, 2010

### *Seeking The Glory*

As Christ taught he was continually challenged by the religious leadership of the day. There was a difference between the way that Christ taught which was visible to those who heard him. Matthew records, ***“And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.” (Matt 7.28-29)***. Those who wished to challenge him did so by questioning the authority by which he taught the things he did. On one occasion the chief priests and elders came to him asking by what authority he did the things he did. Christ responded by asking them where the baptism that John performed came from; heaven or from men. Matthew records their response they gave realizing anything they said would condemn them. ***“And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.” (Matt 21.27)***. These are the same people who conspired, entered into an agreement with Judas and finally had Christ crucified to get him out of their way. Today, we would never think of ourselves as being like this but when we stray from the Gospel we do exactly that. There are other ways to challenge the authority of Christ and one of those is to seek attention for our own gratification. We may find ourselves seeking our own glory and not the glory of the Father. Christ had somewhat to say about this as he taught and confronted the error of his day. On one occasion, amidst veiled rumors that he was nothing but a deceiver, Christ confronted that issue as he taught in the Temple. ***“He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.” (John 7.18)***. Christ came to do the will of the Father and stated that on various occasions to emphasize that he was not speaking to draw attention to himself, but was delivering the message God sent him to reveal. Christ came in the role of a servant, setting an example of what our attitude should be. In that role, Christ made it clear that his teachings were not his own and while he could have taken advantage of the multitudes that followed him, he didn’t. There are religious leaders and icons today that may appear to preach and teach a godly message, but what are they truly seeking? One may not even be aware they are denying God the glory by teaching another doctrine than what we find in the New Testament. Christ clarified this as well. When they heard Christ teach, understanding that he was not one of the educated, they wondered where the things came from that he taught. ***“Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.” (John 7.16)***. Although he was the son of God, Christ acted as a caretaker for the word that belonged to his Father, not himself. Today there are too many folks who take liberties with God’s word when they have no authority to do so. Human nature is to pursue those things that are important to us and our personal wellbeing. Paul dealt with this same selfishness when he wrote to the Philippians informing them he was sending Timothy to help them. Paul states, ***“For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ’s.” (Phil 2.20-21)***. We may sometimes see those who act as though they are concerned about others and their spiritual welfare, but internally they are reaping the benefits of the attention they gain. Paul deals with this in his letter to the Corinthians. ***“And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.” (I Cor 13.3)***. True concern will be reflected in the fact that we care about what God wants us to do. We will focus on pleasing God and drawing attention to the Gospel, Christ and what one needs to do to be saved and remain faithful. The glory belongs to God, not to humans or human institutions.

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