

AT YOUR WORD I WILL

Text: Luke 5:1-6

INTRO: The first lesson a person must learn in life if he wants to be an acceptable servant of God, is that of authority. There are several different words translated “master” in the N.T. The word that is used in our text is EPISTATES. It shows recognition of the Lord’s authority. Jesus was often called RABBEI by His disciples. The word RABBEI means teacher. But in our text Jesus is called EPISTATES. W.E. Vine says “It is used by the disciples in addressing the Lord, in recognition of His authority rather than His instruction.”

- A. Had Peter not recognized Christ’s authority, he might have said, “Lord, you stick to preaching, leave the fishing to us.”
- B. If people would properly recognize Christ’s authority, it would solve most of the problems in the religious world.
- C. The N.T. is His word. JN 16:13-14; Acts 2:4; Gal. 1:11-12; Heb. 12:25.
- D. Let us note some problems that could be solved by recognizing His authority.

I. THE “NO NEED FOR AUTHORITY” PROBLEM. “Silence gives consent.” “The Bible doesn’t say not to.” “What’s wrong with it?”

- A. The Hebrew writer shows that until we learn to respect the silence of the Scriptures, we have not really learned to respect Divine authority.

But to which of the angels has He ever said, “Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool”? (Heb. 1:3).

READ HEBREWS 7:12-14; 8:4

- B. Proper respect for what God says will guide us to correctly act in regard to those things in which God has not spoken.

1. Buried in baptism, Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:4
2. Pray to Mary?
3. Instrumental music in worship?

II. THE PROGRESSIVE REVELATION PROBLEM -- THE IDEA THAT GOD CONTINUES TO SPEAK SEPARATE & APART FROM THE WRITTEN WORD.

READ GALATIANS 1:6-8

Some say, "God told me..." Did He put it in writing?

III. THE IDEA THAT PARTIAL OBEDIENCE IS AS GOOD AS COMPLETE OBEDIENCE.

READ I SAMUEL 15:22-23; JAMES 2:10-12

IV. THE IDEA THAT GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS ARE OPEN TO QUESTION.

2 Kings 5:9-14, especially vs. 13

CONCLUSION: We will make enough honest mistakes. Let us see that we do not compound our problems by failing to seek, recognize, & obey God's will to the best of our ability and knowledge. May we ever be ready to respond when He gives the word, and may we proclaim as Simon Peter did, "Master, at Your word I will." May we also realize the danger of going beyond the word & proceeding without Divine sanction, lets He come & find us guilty of iniquity, Matt. 7:21.

La Porte, TX, March 21, 1976
Burkeville, TX, April, 1976 (meeting)
Bible camp, Sabinal, TX, June 16, 1980
Exton, PA, July 21, 1991
Wrightsville, PA, July 21, 1991
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, March 17, 2002