

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Bill Brittenham

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Mike Davis Dee Minter
Jerry Schnelle Dave Massey

Prayers

Randy Ellis Clay Morris

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Bill Brittenham

Song Leader

Cory Easley

Lord's Supper

Mike Davis Dee Minter

Prayers

Bryan Garlock Cole Meador

WEDNESDAY

Announcements

Bryan Garlock

Song Leader

Cory Easley

Prayers

Rodney Ellis Dave Massey

Invitation

Gerald Eaton

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Deacons

Jon Barry Bill Brittenham
Mike Davis Dave Massey

Evangelist

Bryan Garlock

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.
Worship6:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13-17

Believe the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

Repent from all sins Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

Confess the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Acts 8:35-30

Be Baptized in His name Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

Walk in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10

Think On These Things

Franklin Drive Church of Christ

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Issue 41

Dishonest Religious Discussion

Jacob Hudgins

"I also will ask you a question" (Luke 20:3).

It is days before Jesus' death. The religious leaders are concerned. The man has entered the temple—their turf!—and presumed to drive out the merchants. To make matters worse, now he is *"teaching daily in the temple"* (Luke 19:47). The chief priests want him dead but are hampered by the people who are *"hanging on his words"* (Luke 19:48). Since force (for the moment) is not an option, they attempt to discredit him.

"Tell us by what authority you do these things, or who it is that gave you this authority" (Luke 20:2). Just who do you claim to be? It is likely they are looking for Jesus to claim that he is from God so that they can accuse him of blasphemy. Perhaps there were more steps to their trap—asking for a sign to prove his authority, for example—but we will never know. Jesus stops their question in its tracks.

"He answered them, 'I also will ask you a question. Now tell me, was the baptism of John from heaven or from man?'" (Luke

20:3-4). It is a simple question: what is your conclusion about John the Baptist? Was he a prophet—a man of God—or just another guy? But it is a question that requires an amount of honesty these priests cannot muster. *"And they discussed it with one another, saying, 'If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From man,' all the people will stone us to death, for they are convinced that John was a prophet.' So they answered that they did not know where it came from"* (Luke 20:4-7). Their answer is not couched in terms of their personal beliefs. They think in political terms. What will be the fallout of our answer here? Will Jesus expose our hypocrisy if we answer he is from God? Will the people turn on us if we admit we don't really believe in John? Ultimately they decide it is just better not to answer. Jesus, receiving this "answer," shuts down the conversation. *"Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things"* (Luke 20:8).

What Jesus teaches us here is that **dishonesty makes religious discussion**

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **Willie Margaret Mobley, Bob Buls, Bonnie Allgor, Max Thomas, Maxine Burnham and Mary Alice Turner.** Cards, calls and visits are ALWAYS needed and appreciated.

We have another new sister in Christ: **Jillian DeLaughter** was baptized this past Wednesday afternoon. **Jillian** lives in Maud.

Max Thomas is in ICU on a ventilator. He is in very serious condition. Please keep him continually in your prayers and that God will give **Ann** and **Max** and **Mark** the strength, courage and wisdom they need at this time.

Joey Avance had four MRIs and a Sleep Study on Thursday in the ongoing attempt to diagnose his problems. Please pray that the results of these tests provide some help to the doctors so they can prescribe treatments that will help **Joey**.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Jack** and **Karen Calvert** who are the proud grandparents of a new granddaughter: **Elia Nell Calvert** was born Oct. 10. She was 7 lbs. 15 oz. and 21 inches long. She and her mother are doing fine.

Keep **Lahron McJunkins** in your prayers as he continues to get stronger.

Mary Alice Turner will have additional treatments toward the end of the month. She still needs our prayers.

He hath made His wonderful works to be remembered. Jehovah is gracious and merciful. Psalm 114:4

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unproductive. Their inability to answer a simple question honestly means that there is no need for further discussion. If they miss on the John question, what will their response be when Jesus tells them where *he* is from? Can we imagine that going well?

It is important to remember that just because the topic of our conversation is religious does not mean that all our motives are pure. If we are truly seeking to do God's will (John 7:17) because we love the truth (2 Thess. 2:10-12), religious discussion can be of tremendous value. But if we are seeking the praise of men, or seeking to justify some behavior, or seeking to show how smart we are, or seeking to use religion as a weapon to control others, religious discussion will hold little value. Jesus guides us to the north star of people's hearts—are we willing to be honest about spiritual things? It is in this way that the word of God is "*discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart*" (Heb. 4:12).

None of this is to say that we should stop having religious discussions. These men are literally out for Jesus' blood and this is certainly not the first discussion he has shared with them. Rather, this truth shows us that it is not the genius of our arguments that convinces people in religious discussion. It is about their hearts and God's word. When our efforts to convert others are unsuccessful, we are in good company!

But this truth cuts even deeper. Dishonesty *in me* makes religious discussion unproductive. I cannot expect others to be honest when I will not seriously consider the impact of God's word myself. Do I twist it to say what I want? Do I ignore the parts that challenge me? If I ask others to consider the possibility that long-held beliefs are wrong, am I willing to consider it for myself? Do I truly listen to the other

side—or do I just bide my time until I can tell them how right I am? The shocking thought is that these same chief priests and scribes will continue to teach others in their dishonesty! How tragic that we could be in their number!

This scene also shows us that there is more to honesty than factual accuracy. We can speak truth yet be dishonest. The dishonesty of the chief priests is about insincerity. They claim to serve God but care more about the political dimensions of their views than whether they are true. Worldly consensus does not establish truth (see Rom. 3:4). When we wear the name of Christ yet truly show allegiance to our fellowman, we are dishonest—even if all our statements pass their fact-checks. Others may agree with me or they make think I'm crazy, but am I honest?

Are you honest with God's word?

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God's Word Can Make You Wiser

Aaron Kemple

O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever mine. I have more insight than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, because I have observed Your precepts. (Psalms 119:97-100)

What power did the word of God have upon David? According to these verses, God's word:

- Made David wiser than his enemies.
- Gave him more insight than all his teachers.
- He was able to understand more than the aged.

I do not believe David was being arrogant and cocky when he said this. You can say

these words out of a prideful heart thinking you are the cat's meow of Christianity. And if we have that attitude, God will have to teach us some very difficult lessons in humility (Phil. 3:15)!

What I believe David is saying is that because of God's word he was able to deal effectively with his enemies. We all have enemies, whether or not we follow God's word. But when we listen carefully to the instruction of Scripture, we have an understanding and perspective that is foreign to the people of the world. It will truly stand out and shine.

God's word did not make David the "smartest man on campus." He was not more intelligent than his teachers. David wasn't the man with his hand always up because he knew all the answers. This didn't mean that David was condescending to his teachers and argued constantly with them because he knew better. You can look to Jesus at 12 years old as an example (see Luke 2). The teachers of the Word in the temple were just amazed at his understanding and answers. That is the power of the Word in a person's heart. There is such growth and insight that comes from it.

Finally, the word of God made an old man out of David real quick. The Bible and its wisdom will make a young man or woman sound like they are decades older. Why? That's the power of the Holy Spirit producing His wisdom within you through the word. How often do you see that young man or young woman at church who simply blows you away with their understanding? They may be 10, but they sound like they're 40!

God's word is just awesome and powerful, isn't it?