

**"SIGNS OF LOVE ... WISDOM EVERY DAY!" – OCTOBER 1, 2017**  
**THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13; MATTHEW 21:23-32**

**Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.**

**Do you like riddles and brain teasers? Do you like to try and figure them out for yourself, or would you rather just know the answer? Life is filled with challenging questions. Sometimes the answers are fairly clear; at other times, the answers are not so clear. Sometimes, once we know the answer, trusting the answer, and then doing something about it requires us to be determined and obedient and wise. The chief priests and the elders had a riddle for Jesus: 'By whose authority are you doing these things?' Jesus had his own brain teaser: 'Where did the baptism of John come from, God or humanity?' Some of the questions that riddle our spiritual journey are these: 'What is the number one authority in our life?' And 'Do we trust the power of God in our baptism?' Just because we follow Jesus, we are not promised easy or clear answers to all of life's questions. When you cannot figure it all out by yourself, trust it does not take much faith as you each day stand firm in your Authority and your Answer, for Jesus blesses you every day, with signs of love in wisdom and grace!**

1. Many people in society try to claim positions of authority.  
Philippians 2:3-5; Matthew 21:24-27
  - A. Who do you see claiming authority?
  - B. Authority is also given. Who do you give authority?
  - C. It is a real brain teaser: We know, yet we do not listen or follow.  
Wisdom, every sign of love in the wisdom of Christ, is grace!
  - D. It is a real brain teaser, though we do not always surrender to  
Jesus' authority, Jesus still calls us, loves us, makes us new!  
Believing, believing in grace, is grace; a real sign of God's love!
2. Do those around you know what authority you answer to, the wisdom,  
the grace, that are signs of love every day? Phil. 2:10-13; Matt. 21:23
  - A. They might think they know. You might think they know. This is  
old wisdom; this is not very wise! Matthew 21:23, 27
  - B. Is it clear to others, Who is your authority, Who is true wisdom for  
you, Who is grace, in your life? Matthew 21:31

- C. It is a real brain teaser that we know Who our authority is, and then we do not answer, or act, or tell, or share with others signs of God's love in wisdom and grace! Matthew 21:28-32
3. It is a real brain teaser that Jesus knows who we are, and who we too often look to as authorities in our lives, and he still saves us!  
Philippians 2:5-9; Matthew 21:25-26
- A. This wisdom is so new to us, being made new, being blessed anew, is all so foreign to us, beyond what we know, giving us new signs of God's love and grace every day!
  - B. We may at times wonder why God obediently acts on our behalf. Trust it does not take that much to know anew the power of Jesus in our life, the signs of God's love, every day!
  - C. We may have questions or doubts. We may find it impossible to understand Jesus and his authority, and yet our wisdom is revealed as we surrender to Wisdom, The One who blesses us with every sign of God's love and grace, each and every day!