

"A NEW BEGINNING, IN REAL WISDOM, EVERY DAY!"
OUTDOOR WORSHIP – SEPTEMBER 27, 2020
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, stand firm anew each day, in the One who is the Answer, the One who provides wisdom, real wisdom, for Jesus blesses you every day, with a new beginning in wisdom and grace!

1. Many people in society try to claim positions of authority and wisdom. Philippians 2:3-5; Matthew 21:24-27
 - A. Who do you see claiming authority and wisdom?
 - 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, real wisdom every day in Christ, is grace!
 - D. It is a real brain teaser, though we do not always surrender to Jesus' authority and wisdom, Jesus still calls us, loves us, makes us new! Believing, believing in grace, is grace; this is real wisdom!

2. Do those around you know what authority you answer to, the wisdom, the grace, that you call on every day? Philippians 2:10-13; Matthew 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 the real wisdom and grace in our life every day! 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 and wisdom 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 love and life and hope 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 believe anew the power of Jesus in our life every day ... this is real wisdom!
 - 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 is the Answer, The One who blesses us with a new beginning in real wisdom and grace, each and every day!