

Sharing Truth Under Christ's Divine Authority

Matthew 21:23-32

- 1) Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world
- 2) When we speak truth, we do so under divine authority (21:23)
 - a) We are bold with our words, but we never belittle
 - b) We are tolerant of lost people, but we reject the lies that blind unbelievers
 - c) Though we as believers are treated with disrespect, we treat our detractors with respect
 - d) We must not fail to preach truth in a feeble effort to appear humble
 - e) G.K. Chesterton: "We are on the road to producing a race [of people] too mentally modest to believe in the multiplication table."
 - f) We stand up for what we believe, remaining firm in our faith in Christ
- 3) Guard the truth of Jesus Christ by speaking up for the truth
 - a) Be on the alert for corruption, but don't be a legalist
 - b) Be zealous for the true worship of Christ
 - c) Realize the dangers of standing firm on your faith
 - i) You will lose friends, experience loneliness
 - ii) You might lose your job
 - iii) Family relationships will be shaken
 - iv) Some conspire to hurt you in various ways
- 4) Don't be spineless when the truth hurts. Repent, and speak boldly for the truth (27-32)
 - a) Examine yourself: if you said "yes" to Jesus, are you following Him?
 - b) Strive to be respected, not liked
 - c) Be angry about the right things
 - d) Deal with the truth: Jesus is the Christ; salvation is in Him alone