



## Part 5: Two Foundations

### INTRODUCTION – One Who Has Authority

#### *The Authority of Truth...*

- More than Rabbis, who appealed to Scriptural authority
- More than Prophets, who spoke on God's authority (Thus saith the Lord!)
- Personal, intrinsic authority ("Truly, I say to you"; and even "But I say to you" undoing the grip of tradition and Torah!)

#### *The Authority of Focus...*

- Jesus is the fulfilment of all of Scripture's teaching (5:17).
- Are you trying to be the centre of attention? Uh, yes.

#### *The Authority of the Judge...*

- Jesus is the final judge who decides the fate of all.

#### *The Authority of Salvation...*

- Jesus is the gate, the way, the source of our salvation. Knowing him and being known by him is all that matters. Departing from *him* is the punishment of the disobedient.

Matthew 1:21; 1 John 2:4; Luke 6:46

### LOOK TO THE BOOK – Choosing Your Foundation

Matthew 7:24-29

### TAKEOUT – I'll Have That to Go Please

#### TAKEOUT #1 – We All Must Face Some Storms

Storms (both as final judgment and present adversity) lie ahead for Christ-followers as much as everyone else. The question is whether or not we have made wise decisions before they come (not once they arrive). Christians ought to not be surprised or discouraged when hard times come crashing down on us. Storms are promised.

#### TAKE OUT #2 – We All Must Build A House

It isn't enough to choose Jesus as our foundation for life. We must also commit to a life of building, based upon his teaching. Just choosing the foundation without building a house will not protect us, but will only qualify us for being hypocrites.

#### TAKEOUT #3 – Losing Our Religion

The foundation of sand that Jesus has been exposing throughout the sermon is the way of religion, which builds on the authority of Scripture, Institution, and Ritual rather than Christ. Jesus claims to be the source and goal of Scripture, the new Temple in the flesh, and the fulfilment of all tradition. He offers us the bedrock of committed relationship and agape spirituality over and against the pseudo-foundation of religion.

#### TAKEOUT #4 – The Authority of Jesus, Then and Now

Christ's authority had nothing to do with tone of voice or volume of his preaching or even his sense of unquestioning confidence. Many preachers have projected all of the above and have led many astray. Jesus' authority came from his own person, as the centre of the story, the judge of all, confirmed by his insightful teaching, his miracles, and ultimately, his resurrection. Since then, we flow with that authority only when we align ourselves with Jesus, as a body is meant to follow the head. This will inform how we live and how we read our own Bibles in the first place.

### CONCLUSION – Digging Deeper

Luke 6:48

### HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

#### Warming Up...

1. After reviewing the rest of this week's teaching, talk about what most encouraged, inspired, or confused you.
2. Based on Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, John MacArthur writes in his MacArthur Bible Commentary: "*This obedience calls for repentance, rejection of salvation by works, and trust in God's grace to save through His merciful provision.*" How would an Anabaptist respond to this Evangelical quote?

#### Look to the Book...

3. Read Jesus' alternate telling of the same story in **Luke 6:47-49**. A) What one verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? B) What new elements does Luke include in his version of the story and what might be the implications of each?
4. Read **1 Corinthians 3:10-15**. A) What one verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? B) What new ideas about judgment does Paul bring into the discussion through this passage? How do they fit with and expand upon what Jesus teaches?

#### So What?...

5. Jesus contrasts between two groups of people who hear his message and respond differently. He says nothing about those who never hear. Yet it is clear that the New Testament church never took this as an excuse for evangelistic passivity. Read **Romans 10:14-15**. A) How does this passage motivate you to tell others about Jesus? B) What aspect of his teaching do you think people in our culture need to hear most? C) Who are you inviting to next Sunday's series – *Get Over Yourself: Rebelling Against the Culture of Narcissism*?