What Authority do you serve?

John 1:24-28

Introduction: Last Sunday morning we looked at the question “who are you?” As we worked through the text we realized there had to be a decision made regarding our spiritual walk before we could determine who we were and the eternal condition we were in. This morning we find John the Apostle still reflecting on John the Baptist. We find the Baptist following his namesake, he is baptizing. That may not sound like anything special to you and I today, but then it was very significant. During this particular time baptism was done only to gentiles who were seeking the place of proselyte (one who converted to Judiasm). John was not baptizing Gentiles, he was baptizing Jews. This made the Pharisees angry and they wanted an explanation. Specifically they wanted to know what authority John was performing these acts under. Today you and I would hear it said like this, “who told you to do this.”

Do you realize you and I act on authority everyday of our lives! Authority is the right or power to give direction, make decisions or enforce obedience. You do these things every day. This morning I want ask you a question and through the message God has given from this text I hope you will realize the answer as it applies to your life. The question is “What Authority do you Serve?” and there are only two answers and only one of them is correct for your life. Notice with me…

# Serving the authority of man.

## Is found in popularity.

## Is found in religion.

# Serving the authority of God.

## Is found in sincere humility

## Is found in sincere obedience

## Is found in sincere service

Conclusion: Those serving the authority of man may enjoy popularity, prestige, prominence, prosperity and promotion among their fellow man but they do so at a very expensive cost. Their soul, remember Jesus ask “What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and loose his soul?” Does that mean everyone living to please the world is lost? No. But it does mean they are living a miserable life, a life separated from the peace and contentment of God, a life of conviction from the Holy Spirit. As a matter of fact the modern Church has led many down the road of following man and the world as opposed to Jesus Christ. This alone explains the lack of sincerity in our; worship, attendance, support, cooperation, communication, evangelism, missions and the list goes on and on. So this morning on the authority of God’s word, and the authority of Christ’s cross and resurrection I ask what authority do you serve? God wants you to serve Him and Him alone, if you’re not it is due to one of two reasons; either you’re not born again or you’re backslidden! Close as the Spirit leads!!!