

‘Jesus taught them as one having authority’

What is it about someone’s teaching or conversation or council that makes us say ‘she speaks with authority!’ that is, she (or he) says things that are true and right and wise.

Today there are many voices that claim authority over us, or seduce us into thinking they are authoritative. Voices and images that bombard us in the market place, through the media, on the world wide web. Brand names, association with celebrities, or political parties, or pop stars, even churches, or religious leaders – but which ones voice authority?

Within all this clammer, how do we discern real authority? Authority comes from the same root as ‘author;’ God is *the* Author of all things and so the source of all true authority. But then there are many today claiming to speak in the name of and for this Author of Life.

In today’s Gospel Jesus is no street corner preacher or door to door salesman or tele evangelist trying to convince people about his authority, his ‘authorship from God.’ People around him recognise the Author in what he says, how he relates and responds to people around him: ‘He taught them as one having authority’

We can discover this for our daily lives only by stepping out in faith to follow Jesus, as Author, and discerning truth and wisdom. But it is a wisdom and truth that does not stop at church door. Jesus walked the streets, the market place and loved the poor and outcast; he also withdrew to quiet places. This Author of Life lives in our homes, work places and play grounds. No clammer of cymbals, no loud speaker, no dazzling display; we find this Author day by day, by our side, loving us, walking with us, those we love and all for whom we pray.

- Pene and Don (and we are very pleased to be with you.)

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