Space for God Definitive Authority



PREPARATION

• In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit •
God has now revealed to us his mysterious plan regarding Christ, a plan to fulfill his own good pleasure.
And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ–everything in heaven and on earth. Ephesians 1:9-10

WORSHIP

Now Christ has gone to heaven.
He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority. 1 Peter 3:22

CONFESSION

The high and lofty one who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says this:
"I live in the high and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I restore the crushed spirit of the humble and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts." Isaiah 57:15

MEDITATION – Matthew 21:23-32*

When Jesus returned to the Temple and began teaching, the leading priests and elders came up to him. They demanded, "By what authority are you doing all these things? Who gave you the right?"
"I'll tell you by what authority I do these things if you answer one question," Jesus replied. "Did John's authority to baptize come from heaven, or was it merely human?"
They talked it over among themselves. "If we say it was from heaven, he will ask us why we didn't believe John. But if we say it was merely human, we'll be mobbed because the people believe John was a prophet." So they finally replied, "We don't know."
And Jesus responded, "Then I won't tell you by what authority I do these things.
"But what do you think about this? A man with two sons told the older boy, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.' The son answered, 'No, I won't go,' but later he changed his mind and went anyway. Then the father told the other son, 'You go,' and he said, 'Yes, sir, I will.' But he didn't go.

"Which of the two obeyed his father?"
They replied, "The first."
Then Jesus explained his meaning: "I tell you the truth, corrupt tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the Kingdom of God before you do. For John the Baptist came and showed you the right way to live, but you didn't believe him, while tax collectors and prostitutes did. And even when you saw this happening, you refused to believe him and repent of your sins.

IN SOLITUDE AND/OR COMMUNITY	
Read	Slowly, several times.
Reflect	What does the text say?
Respond	How does it relate to my life?
Rest	I welcome God's healing and renewal.

ANCHORING PRAYER

I accept Your authority.

REVIEW OF THE HEART

What acts of obedience reflect God's authority in my life?

When God said to me, "go", what was my first response?

WISDOM

Paul said, "John's baptism called for repentance from sin. But John himself told the people to believe in the one who would come later, meaning Jesus."
Acts 19:4

And a voice from heaven said,
"This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy." Matthew 3:17

You can only learn what obedience is by obeying. –Dietrich Bonhoeffer

TESTIMONY *What is God saying to me?*

INTERCESSION *Prayers for the Church, for others, and for me.*

BENEDICTION

For, at just the right time Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords.
He alone can never die,
and he lives in light so brilliant that no human can approach him.
No human eye has ever seen him, nor ever will.
All honor and power to him forever!
• Amen •
1 Timothy 6:15-16

SPACE FOR GOD DAILY
Be still and quiet before God.
Seek the Holy Spirit's filling and guidance.
Speak, act, and serve from a listening heart.

PermaneSED (Abide) Kurt D. Peters. **Bold** portions to be read in unison. *Lectionary, Year A
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