

“Authority” - Matthew 21:23-32

Ask - Can you think of a person in this town that has a position of authority?

Background - Jesus returned to Jerusalem for the final time. He entered the city riding triumphally on a donkey. He drove the merchants and money changers out of the temple. He began teaching the people who were there.

“Authority Challenged” - Matthew 21:23-27

(v23) When Jesus entered the temple, who confronted Him? What did they ask Jesus? What is "authority"?

(v24-25a) What did Jesus agree to do if they answered His question? What was His question to them?

(v25b-26) What did they reason among themselves? Why were they unwilling to answer Jesus' question? Discuss.

(v27) What did they say to Jesus and how did He respond?

THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND ELDERS QUESTIONED THE SOURCE OF JESUS' AUTHORITY. HE POSED A QUESTION TO THEM THAT THEY WERE UNWILLING TO ANSWER, SO HE DIDN'T ANSWER THEIRS EITHER.

“Authority Recognized” - Matthew 21:28-32

(v28) Who are the 3 characters in this parable? What did the father ask his 1st son to do?

(v29) How did the 1st son answer? How did he feel about it and what did he do?

(v30) What did the father ask his 2nd son to do? How did the 2nd son answer and what did he do?

(v31) What did Jesus ask the chief priests and elders? How did they answer? Who did Jesus say would get into the kingdom of heaven before them?

(v32) What application did Jesus make? How does it relate to His question in verse 25?

ULTIMATELY IT DOES NOT MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, BUT RATHER WHAT YOU DO. THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND ELDERS REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE JESUS' AUTHORITY.

Application - God the Father has granted all authority in heaven and on the earth His Son, Jesus Christ. He has authority over sickness and death. He has the authority to forgive sin. He has the power to destroy His enemies. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. There are many who give lip service to Christ's authority, but do not obediently submit to His commands or follow His will. Their words are meaningless without action to support them. What have you learned or been challenged by in this lesson?