

...for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God. John 12:43 (ESV)

So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things." Mark 11:33 (ESV)

4. Applications

1. **IN MY LIFE, HAVE I GIVEN JESUS THE PLACE OF AUTHORITY HE DESERVES?** Since Jesus holds the greatest place of authority in the universe, He deserves to be the greatest authority in my life. As a teenager, am I more interested in what my friends think about me or in what Jesus thinks about me? As a parent, if Jesus holds the place of greatest authority in the universe, how does my home make Him the center, so my children know Jesus holds first place? What does my financial giving to God reveal about the place of authority He holds in my life?
2. **IS MY LEADERSHIP ABOUT PLEASING PEOPLE OR PLEASING GOD.** The Sanhedrin was more interested in pleasing people than pleasing God. How is people pleasing leading me away from living for Jesus?

Life Group Questions

1. What is the difference between forgiveness and trust? What happens when that distinction is not made?
2. Read Mark 11:27-33. How did the Jewish leaders intend to trap Jesus with their question? How did Jesus reveal they lost their authority and were nothing more than political hacks? What was the difference between the way Jesus used His authority and the way the Sanhedrin used their authority?
3. How can you use the authority God has given you to love and serve others, instead of controlling and using them?
4. In what areas of your life do you struggle to give Jesus the place of authority He deserves?
5. How have you found yourself living to fit in with culture and please people instead of living to please God?

MARK THE KING AND THE CROSS

Mark 11:27-33 – Who Is The Authority In My Life?

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- A. There is a difference between trust and forgiveness.
Forgiveness is a gift. Trust is earned.

And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. Mark 11:18 (ESV)

1. Jesus claimed incredible authority.

- A. Jesus claimed all authority in the universe.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." Matthew 28:18 (ESV)

...so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:10-11 (ESV)

- B. Jesus taught with authority.

And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. Mark 1:22 (ESV)

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also." Matthew 5:38-39 (ESV)

C. Jesus cast out demons by His authority.

And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” Mark 1:27 (ESV)

D. Jesus forgave sins by His authority.

“But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic... Mark 2:10 (ESV)

E. Jesus will execute judgment by His authority.

And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. John 5:27 (ESV)

F. Jesus has authority to die and raise Himself from the dead.

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.” John 10:17–18 (ESV)

G. The only authority in Jesus’ life was God the Father.

So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.” John 8:28 (ESV)

2. The religious leaders challenged Jesus’ authority.

And they came again to Jerusalem. And as he was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to him, and they said to him, “By what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?” Mark 11:27–28 (ESV)

One day, as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes with the elders came up Luke 20:1 (ESV)

...but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were hanging on his words. Luke 19:48 (ESV)

3. Jesus challenged the religious leaders to make a decision that would demonstrate their authority.

Jesus said to them, “I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. Was the baptism of John from heaven or from man? Answer me.” Mark 11:29–30 (ESV)

He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” John 1:23 (ESV)

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’” John 1:29–30 (ESV)

He must increase, but I must decrease. John 3:30 (ESV)

The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. John 3:35 (ESV)

And they discussed it with one another, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But shall we say, ‘From man?’—they were afraid of the people, for they all held that John really was a prophet. Mark 11:31–32 (ESV)

But if we say, ‘From man,’ all the people will stone us to death, for they are convinced that John was a prophet.” Luke 20:6 (ESV)