

IV. How Will You Respond to Jesus' Authority? (vv. 23-32)

A. "Who gave you this authority?"

Matthew 11:13-15; 23:21

B. An "actual parable": Submitting to a father's authority

C. Authority solutions

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- In what ways have you had problems with authority figures in your life?
- How does Zechariah 9:9 help you understand what Jesus is doing in Matthew 21:1-11?
- How does Jesus' "foolishness" keep you from submitting to his authority?
- How does buying and selling in the temple fall short of God's intention for that space?
- In what ways has Jesus "overturned tables" in your own life? What has been the result of that?
- How does context provide some help in understanding Jesus' cursing of the fig tree?
- How do we know that God expects his people to produce fruit?
- What solution does Matthew 21:1-32 provide for our problems with Jesus' authority? How is this good news of God's grace for us?

Disciple 1.0 (Part 36) Problems with Authority (and Solutions!)

Peter Stonecipher — March 8, 2020

Text: Matthew 21:1-32

Introduction

The reality is that many of us have had to wrestle through problems with authority in our lives

Jesus, as the Divine King, has authority over *everything* and *everyone*

I. What Kind of King Rides a Donkey? (vv. 1-11)

A. Finally, Jerusalem

Matthew 16:21

The Jesus who will very shortly be given over to the religious leaders, who will do to him whatever they decide, actually has authority over those religious leaders and over everyone else

B. The first "living parable": Riding a donkey?

Psalms 118:26

One commentator suggests that we should title this scene "The Un-Triumphal Entry"

C. Authority problems

"This is who we're supposed to submit to?"

D. "In accordance with the Scriptures"

Romans 1:1-3; Zechariah 9:9

E. "Foolishness" and authority

II. Who Gave Jesus Authority to Overturn Tables? (vv. 12-17)

A. The second "living parable": Prayer and robbers?

B. More authority problems

"What gives *this guy* the right to come in here and stop these transactions?"

Isn't this simply an instance of moving products closer to where the consumers need them?

C. "Not in my house"

It makes sense to allow buying and selling in the temple unless you're the One the temple was built to worship

Isaiah 56:7

D. Not *only* about the temple

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

The owner of the house has the authority to tell you what the house was built for

III. Who Gave Jesus Authority to Expect Fruit? (vv. 18-22)

A. The third "living parable": Fig expectations

Somewhat shockingly, Jesus curses the fruitless fig tree and the tree withers at once

B. Still more authority problems

Why use the authority over creation in such a seemingly petty manner in this instance?

C. Not just a fig tree

John 1:3; Matthew 5:6

D. Fruit expectations

Do Jesus' high expectations keep you from submitting to Jesus' authority over your life?

Are there areas of your life you're holding back like the rich young man in Matthew 19?

Galatians 5:22-23; Matthew 21:22