

The Authority of Jesus

Luke 19:45 - 20:26

2/25/01

Intro

- The African Pastors are in Dallas, Texas with Matthew.
- The Women's retreat went very well!!

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(We are going to pass over the triumphant entry text for a short time and will come back to it as we near Resurrection Sunday.)

In today's text, Jesus is now in the final week before the crucifixion during which He spends much time teaching in the Temple.

The Pharisees are challenging Jesus' authority because He cleansed the temple and disrupted their get-rich-quick scheme of money changing.

There is much to learn from their encounter about the authority of Jesus in our lives.

This lesson is about the application of the authority of Jesus in our lives today.

Authority is very important, because it often determines what happens.

Illus – Governor Herter from Massachusetts and the lady in charge of the chicken.

I. The Pharisees are Just Like So Many Today.

Vs 20:2

A. The only authority they respect is their own.

- They didn't respect God, nor His Son, Jesus, nor His prophet John.

Matt 21:28-32 Parable of two sons – who obeyed?

B. People really struggle with authority figures today.

- ***There is a good side to this...***
 - ❖ You won't just follow any self-proclaimed leader. (David Koresh)
 - ❖ You can be a good Berean.
- ***There is a bad side to this...***
 - ❖ It can be pure rebellion to God.
 - ❖ It will isolate you from God's will.
 - ❖ It brings a lot of trouble!!!

What is teenage rebellion about? Authority.
But we do it ourselves everyday.

Illus – At a men's retreat...

II. Being Under Authority is the Key to Having Authority.

A. The most famous example is the Roman Centurion.

- “I, too, am a man under authority.”

Also **Luke 19 – Be in authority over ten cities.**

B. It’s more than just following orders.

- It’s having your heart in the right place.

III. Godly Authority Operates Differently Than the World’s.

A. Not lording it over.

Matt 20:25-28

B. But by serving, edifying, blessing, leading in godly ways.

C. But it only works if we are under the authority of God.

Conclusion

Understanding God’s authority is key to a Christian’s life. It will often determine the maturity of a believer. We should be distinctly different than the world in this.