

Cross references and additional connections: Look these up!

- ❑ **Jesus's authority:** Matthew 7:28-29, John 10:1-21, Luke 6:1-10, Mark 2:18-22, Matthew 21:23-27, Luke 20:1-8, Mark 1:21-28

Questions for reflection:

- ❖ Why do you think Jesus didn't tell them who His authority came from?
- ❖ What do you think about Jesus' strategy to ask them a question instead of just answering theirs?
- ❖ What do you think the intent of the chief priests, scribes and Pharisees in asking the question of Jesus?
- ❖ What do you feel like the implications of Jesus having all authority in your life are?
- ❖ We see from the passage the devastating consequences of fearing men more than the Lord. What are some ways you are prone to do this? Have you repented and asked God to help you with this?

Looking Forward: Mark 12:1-12

Gospel of Mark

Responding to the Messiah



Mark 11:27-33

Who do you think you are?!

Looking Back: Mark 11:11-26

List some of other places you see Jesus affirming His authority:

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Loving God with your actions

- ❑ The pharisees are blind to their own blindness. We, too, are blind in the ways that we might be usurping Jesus' authority. One of the best ways to combat this is to invite another Jesus follower into your life- who loves you enough to say the hard things- and give them permission to help expose those areas to you.
 - ❑ Prayerfully and earnestly consider those areas that need some adjustment and ask God to help you submit yourself to his authority and sovereignty.
 - ❑ Spend some time in prayer and reflection on the blessing of submitting to an authority that is all loving, all powerful and entirely compassionate.

Loving God with your heart

- ❑ What do you think and feel when someone talks about authority? Do you enjoy having authority? Do you resist anyone having authority over you?
- ❑ How do your feelings about authority shape your understanding of Jesus having all authority?

Loving God with your mind

- Authority, *noun*: person(s) in command, power to influence or command thought, opinion, or behavior
- Sovereignty, *noun*: supreme power with freedom from external control over a set area or people group.
- It's important that we recognize the difference between authority and sovereignty. We need to recognize God's sovereignty over every area of our life, and every system in

the world. Then, we need to submit to his authority in light of his sovereignty. If we're only submitting some areas of our life to him and trying to retain or regain control over others, we are not properly realizing Christ's authority.

Want to look deeper?

- Remember, in the original writing there was no chapter break between this passage and the next. Here in chapter 11, Jesus responds to the priests and teachers of the law in verse 33. We may feel that the chapter ending means that the interaction between them is over.
- However, that's not the case. In fact, Jesus continues right into telling them a parable. Notice- he was offering a chance for them to engage in normal, unveiled conversation but they refused. Now Jesus uses parables to continue his teaching.
- In Matt 13:10-23, Jesus explains why he used parables. He quotes from the prophet Isaiah and tells the disciples that the mysteries of heaven aren't meant to be understood by those that refuse Christ.
 - In that sense, along with the content of Mark 12:1-12, Jesus is conveying judgement on the hardheartedness of the chief priests and teachers of the law. They're unwilling to recognize Christ's authority- not because they haven't seen or because they don't know- but because Jesus represents correction to their inflated status and sinful hearts and desires.
 - Sin loves to live in the dark. Whenever it is exposed, it fights to shut out the light or change its own appearance to hide its true nature.
 - That's why we'll see in Mark 12:14, the Pharisees start making more plans on how to kill Jesus. It's not enough to outwit him or silence him- they want him dead because he has exposed their own wickedness.