



Authority and Tenants

Aug 21

INTRODUCTION: We are back in Mark and Jesus has been exercising His authority as the Christ, the Son of God. Now, He is challenged by the religious elites.

REVIEW: [Mark](#) (be cautious with other videos)

KEY POINT: identity, authority, recognition, submission

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Mk 11:1–11, Triumphal Entry)

- How does this episode begin to answer how Jesus became King?
- What was the symbolism of the colt miracle (Zech 9:9–10)?
- How would Jesus fulfil the cries of Ps 118:25–27?
- How did the people fail to see the King Jesus came to be?
- What did it mean Jesus ‘looked around’ the Temple?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (Mk 11:12–26, Judgement Sandwich)

- What two reasons did Jesus become angry in the Temple? When are we justified to exercise righteous anger?
- How was the fig tree a ‘judgement sandwich’? What was Jesus judging in pt. I and then in pt. II.
- What is needed in our life if we aren’t to become like Israel?

READ: Mark 11:27-12:12

QUESTIONS:

Authority of Jesus Challenged (11:27-33)

1. V. 27a- It is the third day Jesus has been in Jerusalem for the feast. *He is probably walking in the Temple colonnades.* What had He done on day 1 and day 2?
2. V. 27b- *His opponents finally catch up with Him.* **Why is this an impressive delegation?**

3. **V. 28- How do you think they asked this question? Motives aside, why is it a fundamental question we all need to answer about Jesus?**
4. *If you were asked a question by a great authority you would be compelled to answer.* **Apart from being something Rabbis did, how is He counter question a claim to greater authority? (v. 29 and v. 30b).**
5. **How is the answer to their question and Jesus’ question one and the same? (c.f. Mk 1:7).**
6. **Vv. 31–32-As they deliberate, how is the delegation caught in a catch 22? Why didn’t they just demand Jesus answer *their* question?**
7. *V. 33- They dodge the questions!* **Who did they fear more, man or God?**

Parable of the Tenants (12:1–12)

8. *Though He wouldn’t tell them overtly, He did in an allegory.*
9. In allegories, each character corresponds to reality. Can you peace them together?¹:

Allegory	Analogy	Reality
Owner		
Vineyard		
Tenants		
Seasons		
Servants		
Son (baptism/transfiguration)		
Owner’s Judgement		
Others		

10. *The leaders rejected Jesus because He didn’t suite their imperial purposes. Their very rejection would then be used by God to build something even greater than the OC (Ps 118:22–23).*
11. **How is Jesus the cornerstone of God’s greatest purposes? Why should we marvel?**

¹ A landlord-tenant system (much like English lords) where in the landlord’s absence the tenants were to yield fruit. This not only benefited them but brought honour to their master.

12. *Interested in their own authority (fearing man) vs. discovering the truth (fearing of God), they were unwilling to submit to Christ's rule. This is shown in their anger. How is this a great illustration of Jesus' earlier teaching in Mk 8:34–37? What benefits do we gain by submitting to Christ?*
13. **In passing judgement on Jesus they actually judge themselves. (Jn 3:18–19). How is this true today?**

NEXT WEEK: Aug 28- The Great Commandment, Mk 12:28–34