



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: The Confrontation of the King

Date: March 17, 2024

Scripture Text: Mark 11:27-12:12

Notes:

Today we continue our sermon series leading up to Easter. Last week we looked at the *Coronation of the King*, Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem the Sunday before He was crucified. Today's sermon is focused on the *Confrontation of the King*. Jesus has demonstrated His authority during His public ministry but now the religious leadership is questioning where his authority comes from. In the past, He's been accused of working under the authority of Satan, but Jesus pointed out that a house divided by itself will not stand. How can He be acting under Satan's authority when Satan is who He is fighting? Let us take a look how Jesus deals with the questioning of His authority.

I. Questioning the Authority of Christ ([Mark 11:27-33](#))

The chief priests, scribes and elders comprise the Sanhedrin, the Jewish religious oversight council. When word of an individual taking a public stand concerning God's word, it was not uncommon for them to send a delegation to investigate. Nothing is wrong with seeking discernment and wisdom concerning someone's teaching or preaching when the measuring stick is the Bible. Unfortunately, these were driven by tradition and ambition, which colored their perspective.

- What was the religious leaders' question of Jesus?
- Do you think Jesus could have given an answer which would have been sufficient?
- How did Jesus respond to their question? What was His question?
- What situation did Jesus' question put the religious leaders in?
- What was their answer? How did Jesus respond?
- What are ways Jesus' authority is questioned today?
- How can we question Jesus' authority by our actions and/or attitude?
- What are ways we can demonstrate the importance of submission to Jesus' authority?



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II. Rejecting the Authority of Jesus ([Mark 12:1-12](#))

Jesus responds to the religious leadership with a parable. He tells the story of a vineyard owner who rented the vineyard out to vine-growers (tenant farmers) to keep the vineyard. At harvest time He sent servants to the vineyard, but they were treated badly, and some were killed. He eventually sent His beloved Son thinking they would respect Him as the Son, but they took Him and killed Him. “What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the vine-growers, and will give the vineyard to others.”

- What do the various elements of the parable represent (Owner, vineyard, vine-growers, servants, Son)?
- Did the religious leaders understand Jesus was saying they were the vine-growers ([vs. 12](#))?
- Why do people at times buck against God’s direction?
- Many times, we want God’s provision and protection without following His direction. Describe a time when you experienced God’s provision or protection.
- How does following God’s direction demonstrate submission to His authority?

III. Enacting the Authority of God ([Matt. 21:43-44](#))

Jesus concludes by stating that the kingdom of God would be taken from the religious leaders and given to those willing to follow His directions (produce fruit). Jesus states in [Matt. 28:18](#) that all authority has been given to Him in heaven and earth. For those willing to submit to His authority and follow His direction, He can be glorified by our obedience.

- Why is it challenging to follow God’s directions at times?
- What are practical things you can practice to help you follow God’s directions?
- How can we be blessed by obedience to God?
- Where can we find motivation to obey?
- Read [John 15:8-14](#). Describe the ways Jesus explains how we are to obey Him.

To help us submit to Jesus’ authority and follow His directions, we need to remember how He demonstrated His love for us by dying for our sins. By His love for us we can love Him. We demonstrate our love for Him by loving one another and keeping His commandments.