

# True Authority

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, May 5, 2019; Christoph Hyder

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A right response to Jesus is not simply to see Him as the God of the O.T. who is filled with wrath and judgment or the God of the N.T. who is filled with love and mercy. Jesus is both our righteous judge and merciful Savior, who has authority to judge and save!

## **I. Authority Revealed – Read Mark 11:1-11**

- A. How does Exodus 12:21-27 help you understand the significance of Jesus arriving in Jerusalem during the week of Passover? Why do you think that's important as you think about Mark 11?
- B. What picture are we given in Zechariah 9:9 of the coming Messiah? How is this image of the coming Messiah different from the image anticipated by the crowds in Jesus' day?
- C. The crowds shout "Hosanna" or "He saves" as Jesus enters Jerusalem. With Passover in your mind, how did the peoples' shouts of "Hosanna" communicate more than they realized?

## **II. Authority Exercised – Read Mark 11:12-25**

- A. This section provides a wonderful example of a "Markan Sandwich." How does the fig tree in verses 12-14 and verses 20-26 help you understand Jesus' cleansing of the temple?
- B. How does the fruitless display of worship in the temple reflect the deadness of people's hearts? What does your worship say about your own heart? Do you worship God from a heart filled with joy over your salvation or do you worship the Lord to receive His benefits and blessings?
- C. What does the fruitful follower of Jesus look like in verses 20-25? Is this fruit evident and obvious in your own life? How are you seeking to cultivate fruitfulness in your life?
- D. Are there areas in your life where you are tempted to doubt God's Word? Are you quick to pray or is it your last resort after you have tried all YOU can do? Think through your relationships. Are you holding onto bitterness or unforgiveness in any of your relationships?

## **III. Authority Rejected – Read Mark 11:27-33**

- A. The religious leaders reject Jesus' authority – evidenced by their refusal to answer Jesus' question. Where are you tempted to reject Jesus' authority in your own life? Is there anything He is currently calling you to do or NOT to do in which you're unwilling to submit?
- B. Are you tempted to separate the character of Christ in your mind? Do you see Him as loving and gracious apart from being righteous and wrathful? How is Jesus both the Judge of those who are unbelieving and the One who was judged for those who are believing?