

Matthew - "Why Jesus?"

***Our fight over
authority***

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Matthew 21:23-27 – Our fight over authority

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Luke 19:47 And He was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people were seeking to destroy Him, [48] but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were hanging on His words.

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We will read 3 sections this morning:

- 1) Questioning Jesus about John = The Authority of Jesus
 - 2) Parable # 1 – The 2 sons
 - 3) Parable # 2 – The wicked tenant farmers
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Let's answer 4 questions:

- 1) Why is Jesus' Authority questioned?
 - 2) Why is Jesus' Authority so problematic for us?
 - 3) How do we solve this problem?
 - 4) What is Jesus' Authority like?
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- 1) Why is Jesus' Authority questioned?
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1) Why is Jesus' Authority questioned?

The Jerusalem Leadership's collective authority originates in:

- *their birthrights as leaders in the case of the priests*
 - *their association with & administration & oversight of the Temple in the case of the Chief Priests...chosen throughout the year by lot to serve*
 - *in their education in the case of the scribes*
 - *in their good fortune having been born into Jerusalem families of high status*
 - *& above all their connection to & proximity to the Temple*
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1) Why is Jesus' Authority questioned?

The question they put to Jesus is not an innocent one:

- *Jesus is not a priest – in their definition*
 - *He has no official role in the Temple – in their definition*
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1) Why is Jesus' Authority questioned?

Jesus narrows the choice of His authority to two:

- *Divine origin*
 - *Human origin*
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1) Why is Jesus' Authority questioned?

2) Why is Jesus' Authority so problematic for us?

Isaiah 5 – Vineyard background

Main difference = in Isaiah the owner of the vineyard pronounces judgment on the vineyard, not on the tenants

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- 1) Why is Jesus' Authority questioned?
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- *In the Temple Jesus has attempted to reorient Israel around God's Redemptive Purpose*
- *The Temple Leadership resists it*
- *Result = their own devastation & the transfer of leadership to others – namely Jesus and His apostles*

In other words His judgment is NOT against the vineyard

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So what happens?

- 1st servant is “beaten”
 - 2nd servant is beaten & “treated shamefully”
 - 3rd servant is “wounded & cast out” (violence is implied)
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- 1) Why is Jesus' Authority questioned?
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Deut. 6:10 “And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, [11] and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, [12] then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

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Autonomy = self-governing, freedom from external control or influence

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Tim Keller:

If I am an accident I am free...but I am also meaningless with no real eternal purpose

But if I am created I have deep purpose but I am not really totally free

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What do the Tenants do?

- They drag Him off the property so as not to defile their grapes
 - "the inheritance will be ours"
 - Mishnah = stated if you occupied a place for 3 years the title transferred
 - In Isaiah's Parable, the vineyard represents Israel & it is destroyed
 - But here the vineyard is not the problem, it is THE TENANTS = Jewish Leadership
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Matthew 21:28-32 – Our fight over authority

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He displays MAKROTHYMIA = person in a position of power who can exact vengeance on his enemies BUT CHOOSES NOT TO

Literally = He puts anger FAR AWAY

Makrothymia = inner power to bare injuries without meltdown

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Makrothymia = inner power to bare injuries without meltdown

- a) Notice the *LENGTHS* the owner, GOD goes thru to reach people
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- a) Notice the *LENGTHS* the owner, GOD goes thru to reach people
 - b) Notice the *insane vulnerability* to reach people
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Makrothymia = inner power to bare injuries without meltdown

- a) Notice the *LENGTHS* the owner, GOD goes thru to reach people
 - b) Notice the *insane vulnerability* to reach people
 - c) Notice how *distraught* He is over His sheep
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