

Who has the right to rearrange things?

A restaurant in Switzerland...

What are examples of when someone makes a change that they don't have the authority or right or status to change?

Who has the right to rearrange your life and my life?

- In little ways
- In really big ways

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Jerusalem, the Temple, and Passover

Jerusalem

- The epicenter of Jewish life: social, political, economic, and religious
- “The city of our God, the Great King” *Psalms 48:1–2*

The Temple

- The epicenter of Jerusalem, especially religiously

Passover

- One of the 3 great feasts (perhaps the greatest)

Jerusalem at Passover

- Those who could travel to Jerusalem at Passover would
- Perhaps normal population: 30,000
- Perhaps at Passover: 180,000
- The Temple is the center of the Passover

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Jerusalem, the Temple, and Passover → Jesus

Traveling to Jerusalem for the Passover

- Now on the last leg of the journey: Jericho to Jerusalem

With...

- The 12 apostles
- Many more disciples (including the prominent women)
- The mother of 2 of the 12, so probably other relatives...
- And a “great crowd”

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Matthew 21:1-6

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

“Say to Daughter Zion,

Daughter Zion = Jerusalem and its people

‘See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

foal = young donkey

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them.

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*Matthew 21:1-17***1-6: Jesus deliberately claimed to be the Messiah & King**

- Jesus deliberately fulfills the direct, predictive prophecy of Zechariah
 - Less about fulfilling details of prophecy
 - More about fulfilling the big idea of prophecy
 - 7-9: • Zechariah prophesied the return of God when Jerusalem would become the center of worship for all nations
 - 10-11: • Zechariah prophesied the return of God when Jerusalem would become the center of worship for all nations
 - 12-13: • Jesus deliberately claims to be the fulfillment of that great vision of God!
 - 14: • Jesus deliberately claims to be the fulfillment of that great vision of God!
 - 15-16: • Yet in humility
 - 17: • Riding a borrowed young beast of burden

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Matthew 21:7-9

They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Hosanna = Praise! (earlier it mean “Save us!”)

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Matthew 21:1-17

1-6: Jesus deliberately claimed to be the Messiah & King

7-9: The crowds from Galilee enthusiastically agreed!

- They treated Jesus like a victorious king
- They praised Him as the Messiah, the promised king and rescuer from God
- This was a very dramatic entrance to Jerusalem!

10-11: • Earlier Jesus silenced anyone who knew that

12-13: He was the Messiah

14: • Now He leads the people to make the claim!

15-16:

17:

9

Matthew 21:10-11

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

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Matthew 21:1-17

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10-11: The city of Jerusalem was troubled

- Crowds from Galilee knew and praised Jesus
 - The whole of Jerusalem was skeptical
 - Probably the people who called for His crucifixion
 - “STIRRED” is the same word as “the earth SHOOK”
- 12-13: when Jesus died and “the guards TREMBLED” when the angels rolled the stone away from Jesus’ tomb
- 14: • “Who is this?” is an objection rather than seeking
- 15-16: information
- 17: • Galilean crowds were right, yet incomplete

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Matthew 21:11-13

Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves.

“It is written,” he said to them,

“My house will be called a house of prayer,
but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’”

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Matthew 21:1-17

1-6: Jesus deliberately claimed to be the Messiah & King

7-9: The crowds from Galilee enthusiastically agreed!

10-11: The city of Jerusalem was troubled

12-13: Jesus deliberately claimed authority over the Temple

- By overturning what the Temple authorities allowed, Jesus claimed highest authority among the Jews
- This significantly disrupted Temple activities at one of the most important times of the year!

14: • People expected the Messiah to overthrow Rome

15-16: • Instead Jesus challenged the Jewish authorities!

17: • Jesus claimed to speak for God in the Temple

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Matthew 21:14

The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them.

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Matthew 21:1-17

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12-13: Jesus deliberately claimed authority over the Temple

14: Jesus miraculously healed in the Temple

- The blind and lame would normally not be allowed to enter the Temple
- They came to Jesus in the Temple
 - Were they invited? Or just expected a welcome?

15-16: • Earlier miracles caused controversy on Sabbaths

17: • Now in the Temple itself

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Matthew 21:15-16

But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant.

“Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him.

“Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read,

“From the lips of children and infants
you, Lord, have called forth your praise?””

indignant = angry and troubled because of wrong behavior

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Matthew 21:1-17

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12-13: Jesus deliberately claimed authority over the Temple

14: Jesus deliberately miraculously healed in the Temple

15-16: The Jewish leaders were very troubled

- By miracles in the temple
- By children praising Jesus in the Temple
- Their question is a demand that Jesus stop
- Psalm 8: “How majestic is Your Name!”

17: • Jesus: God is prompting kids to praise Jesus!

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Matthew 21:17

And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany,
where he spent the night.

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**17: Having confronted the leaders,
Jesus gave them time to decide how to respond**

- Their response...

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Matthew 21:23

[The next day] Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. **“And who gave you this authority?”**

This question was not a request for information

It was a rejection of the claims Jesus’ actions made:

- **He is God’s Messiah, the promised King**
- **He has authority over the Temple**
- **He deserves praise as God in the Temple**

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Jesus gave the religious leaders 2 options:

1) Submit completely to Jesus

2) Reject His claims

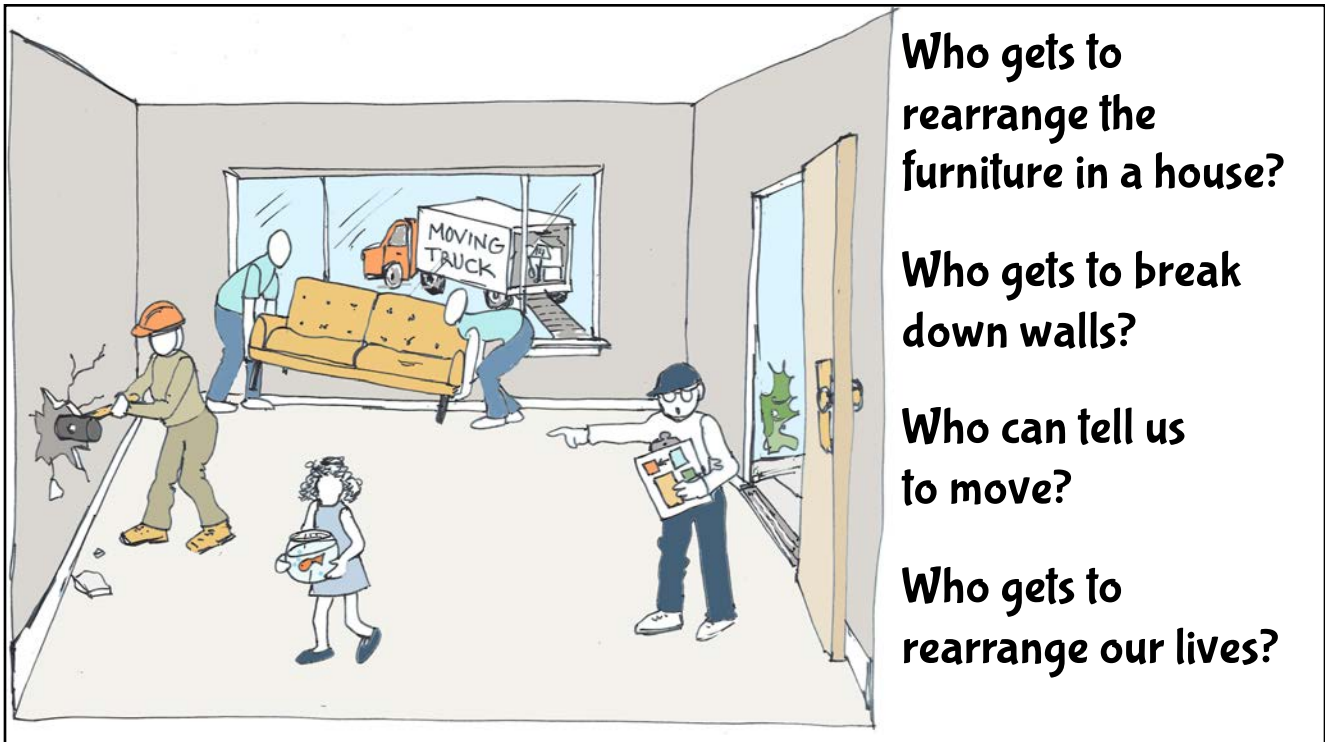
There is no middle ground with Jesus

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The Big Idea

**Jesus is
God the King
over all
including every part of our lives**

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Jesus' total claim over the lives of people...

All our possessions

- Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?” ...Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, **go, sell your possessions and give to the poor**, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” *Matthew 19:16-21*

Family relationships and cultural values

- Another disciple said to him, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” But Jesus told him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.” *Matthew 8:21-22*

Life itself

- Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.**” *Matthew 16:24-25*

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Jesus' promise to those who bow to Him

To those who submit to Jesus, He will say: “**Well done**, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will **put you in charge of many things**. Come and **share your master's happiness!**” *Matthew 25:21*

When we bow to Him, we can expect...

- **Honor**
- **Authority and blessings**
- **The love and happiness of God Himself!**

When Jesus 'rearranges the furniture' of our lives,
it is not to take from us → it is to give us far more!

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The Big Idea

**Jesus is
God the King
over all
including every part of our lives**

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Application

Submit every part of our lives to Jesus

- He is God over all
- He is completely good and generous and kind and wise
- He already gave His life for us when we were His enemies → there is nothing He wouldn't give us now!
 - “He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?” *Romans 8:32*
- To treat Jesus as merely an advisor, a helper in time of need, our Sunday morning focus...misses the best gifts He wants to give!
- **When Jesus 'rearranges the furniture' of our lives, it is not to take from us → it is to give us far more!**

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“Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.’” *Matthew 16:24-27*

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Application

Submit every part of our lives to Jesus

- Is there something you are holding back?
 - Good things: money, time, relationships, abilities, passions, identity, hopes, dreams, ...
 - Bad things: fears, anger, regrets, grief, hate, pride, ...
- All lesser gods are terrible masters!
 - They never fully give what they claim to give
 - In the end, they always steal, kill, and destroy
- Jesus gives life, freedom, and joy to those who bow to Him alone

“And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake **will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.**” *Matthew 19:29*

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Application

Submit every part of our lives to Jesus

Rejoice that no other power, human or demonic, can resist the power of Jesus!

- Nations are a drop in a bucket!
- He redirects the hearts of kings
- He can send or stop armies and earthquakes
- He can send or stop disease and overcome death itself
- “If God is for us, who can be against us?” *Romans 8:31*

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**Jesus is
God the King
over all
including every part
of our lives**

**He has come
to give life and joy
to all who will
submit to Him
as King over all**