

When a voice has authority...or not

When the voice of authority **doesn't have much authority**

- Pets

When the voice of authority **actually has authority**

- A good coach with good players

What about the voice of God in our lives?

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Just before this passage

Jesus powerfully entered Jerusalem

- The crowds shouted: “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.”
- Jesus declared judgment on Jerusalem
 - With rich compassion
- Jesus cleared out the temple courts, throwing out the authorized sellers of animals for sacrifices
- Every day He taught in the temple

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Luke 19:47-48

Perhaps the Sanhedrin (Jewish high court)

Every day [Jesus] was teaching at the temple. But **the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders** among the people were **trying to kill him**. Yet they could not find any way to do it, because **all the people** hung on his words.

Matched with: “The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately... But **they were afraid of the people.**” Luke 20:19

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Luke 20:1-8

One day as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple courts and proclaiming the good news, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, together with the elders, came up to him. “Tell us by what authority you are doing these things,” they said. “Who gave you this authority?”

Chief priests controlled what happened in the temple

- Their authority came by birth, wealth, collaboration with power
- Jesus had none of these
- They challenged Jesus: you have no right to do what you do!
 - Claiming divine authority → charge of blasphemy

Debate in the temple was ‘high stakes’ (public honor/shame)

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He replied, “I will also ask you a question. Tell me: John’s baptism—was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Why didn’t you believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ all the people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John was a prophet.”

John the Baptist was from a priestly family

yet he lived and ministered in the desert, away from the temple

Both options for the chief priests would get them in big trouble

Though these leaders had formal authority,

they were dependent upon popular opinion

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So they answered, “We don’t know where it was from.”

Jesus said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

Their non–answer revealed their real fear

- **People rather than God**

Jesus: “Don’t cast pearls before swine”

- **They were trying to trap Jesus rather than trying to learn**
- **So He saw no value in answering their question directly**
- **Instead...**

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**Warning the people *Luke 20:9-19*
about their leaders**

He went on to **tell the people** this parable: “A man planted a **vineyard**, rented it to some farmers and went away for a long time. At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants so they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed. He sent still a third, and they wounded him and threw him out.

“Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him.’

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Isaiah 5: The Song of the Vineyard

I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard:
 My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.
 He dug it up and cleared it of stones
 and planted it with the choicest vines.
 He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well.
 Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,
 but it yielded only bad fruit.
 “Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah,
 judge between me and my vineyard.

For Isaiah: vineyard produced bad grapes

For Jesus: tenants were bad tenants

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Luke 20:9-19

He went on to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard, rented it to some farmers and went away **for a long time**. At harvest time he sent **a servant** to the tenants so they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. He sent **another servant**, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed. He sent still **a third**, and they wounded him and threw him out.

owner = Lord.

“Then the **owner of the vineyard** said, ‘What shall I do? I will send **my son, whom I love**; perhaps they will respect him.’

Astounding patience! (even naïve or foolish...)

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“But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over. ‘This is the heir,’ they said. ‘Let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. **Evil! Yet just like the leaders’ response to Jesus**

“What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others.”

When the people heard this, they said, **“God forbid!”**

What are they reacting to?

- **Perhaps reacting to the whole story**
 - **Rebellion by God’s people against God leading to real judgment**

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Jesus **looked directly at them** and asked, “Then what is the meaning of that which is written: **Rejected stone rose to supremacy** **“The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone”?** **Their rejection of Him cost them everything**

Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”

The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately, because they knew he had **spoken this parable against them.** But they were afraid of the people.

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The Big Idea**God is astonishingly patient****AND****despite resistance or opposition****one day Jesus Christ will judge all
who did not submit to Him as King**

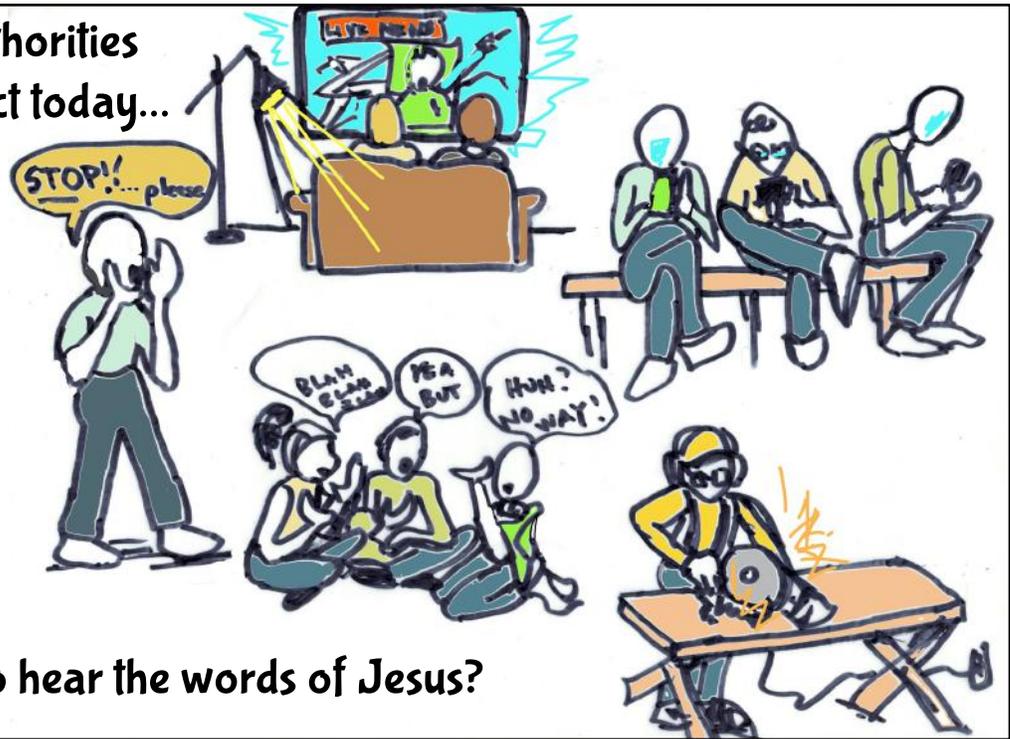
13

“This child [Jesus] is destined to cause the **falling** and **rising** of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.”

Luke 2:34-35

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Words from authorities
have little impact today...



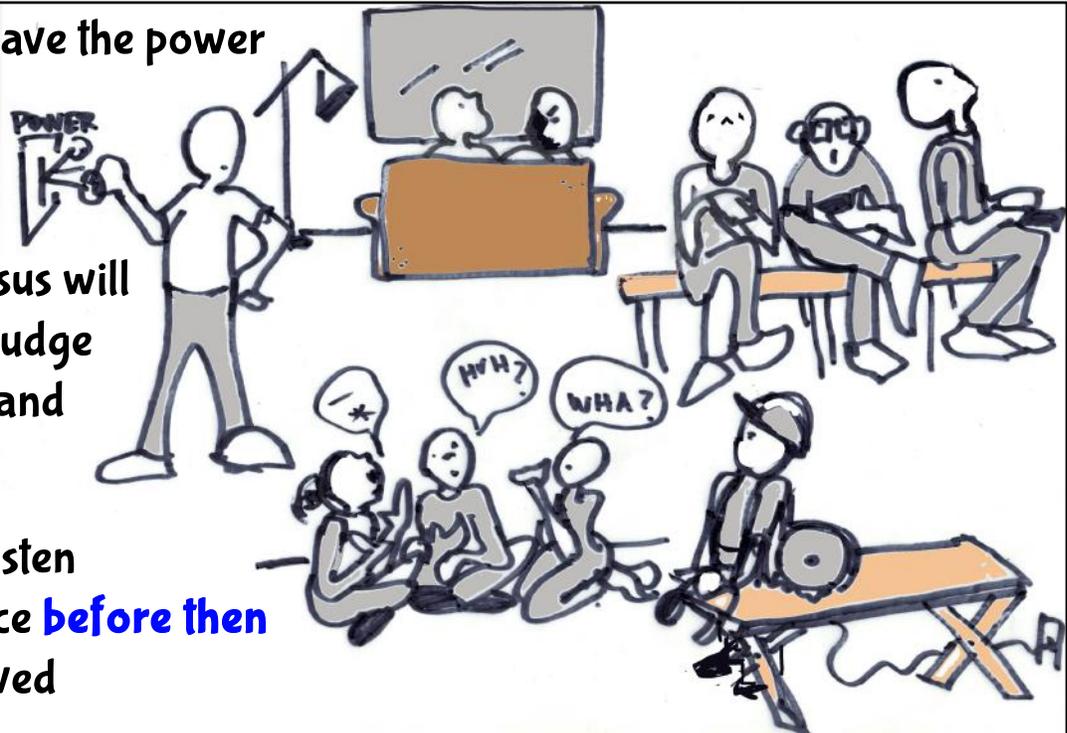
Who has ears to hear the words of Jesus?

15

Few things have the power
to stop us
in our
tracks

One day, Jesus will
return to judge
the living and
the dead

Those who listen
to His voice **before then**
will be saved



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The apostles' message:

“We are witnesses of everything [Jesus] did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to **preach to the people** and to **testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.**”

Acts 10:39-42

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The Big Idea

God is astonishingly patient

AND

despite resistance or opposition

**one day Jesus Christ will judge all
who did not submit to Him as King**

18

The most important question in life

- Not:**
- “Are you good enough?”
 - “Have you done more good than bad?”
 - “Do you have the right beliefs?”
 - “Have you lived up to your potential?”
 - “Have you tried your best?”
 - “Did you have good intentions?”
 - “Are you at peace with your life? With your death?”

Rather:

- **“What are you doing about Jesus?”**
 - Reject Him: religious leaders
 - Walk away from Him: rich young ruler, elder brother, ...
 - **Worship Him as God and King with every part of our lives**

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Application

Prepare for the coming judgment when Jesus returns

- Find salvation in Jesus Christ
 - Is your name written in the Book of Life?
 - “And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” *Acts 2:21*
 - “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” *Acts 4:12*
- This is the most important issue in life by far
 - While we are living
 - Especially when we die or when Jesus returns

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Application

Prepare for the coming judgment when Jesus returns

- **Submit to Jesus in all areas of life**
 - “So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For **we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.” *2 Corinthians 5:9-10*
- **Fear God alone... and not people**
 - What has power to ruin your day? or make your day?
- **Don't confuse His astonishing patience for approval or acceptance**
- **Does Jesus have true authority in all parts of our lives?**
 - Marching band...

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Application

Rejoice in God's superabounding patience

- **He is astonishingly patient and self-sacrificing**
 - Because of my Savior: “My chains fell off. My heart was free. I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.”
- **No one else would try as many times, or would wait as long, with as much self-sacrifice, hoping that we will turn to Him**
- **Yet His patience has a limit...**
 - **“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts” but turn to Him and be saved**

22

The Big Idea

God is astonishingly patient

AND

despite resistance or opposition

**one day Jesus Christ will judge all
who did not submit to Him as King**

23

Jesus looked directly at them and asked, “Then what is the meaning of that which is written:

“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone”?

Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”

What are you doing today about Jesus?

- **Opposing Him?**
- **Ignoring Him?**
- **Letting Him have pieces of your life?**
- **Joyfully submitting to His total authority as King?**

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And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

Philippians 2:8

Jesus perfectly submitted to God's total authority

He calls us to follow Him

**And He is astonishingly gracious to all who trust
in His sacrifice for us**