

Authority

Luke 19:47-20:19

When a voice has authority...or not

When the voice of authority doesn't have much authority
When the voice of authority actually has authority
What about the voice of God in our lives?

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

Luke 19:47-20:19

19:47-48

20:1-8

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)

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

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...

20:9-19

What are the people reacting to?

Perhaps reacting to the whole story

Rebellion by God's people against God leading to real judgment

Rejected stone rose to supremacy

Their rejection of Him cost them everything



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

"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*

Words from authorities have little impact today...

Who has ears to hear the words of Jesus?

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

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*

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

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

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?

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

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?

Looking to Jesus

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

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. How have you seen and experienced the superabounding patience of God?
2. The opinions of other people were amazingly powerful in the lives of the religious leaders. In what parts of your life are the opinions of people especially powerful?
3. In what parts of your life do you struggle to submit to Jesus completely?
4. In what ways is the coming judgment by Jesus a source of hope and comfort to you? In what ways is it a source of worry or fear?
5. What hope is offered in these verses?
“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*
6. Who in your life needs to wrestle with the most important question in life: What are you doing about Jesus?