

Questioning the King's Authority

MATTHEW 21:18-27

Until the will and the affections are brought under the authority of Christ, we have not begun to understand, let alone to accept, His lordship.

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I. A Sign of Authority

II. The Source of Authority

Into the Bible

1. In his confrontations with the Pharisees Jesus had grown increasingly direct in his condemnation of their hypocrisy. This provoked anger and a series of challenges intended to discredit him or trap him into an incriminating statement. (Luke 11:53-54, Matthew 19:3-9, 22:15-22, John 8:3-6.) The fact that they are not truly asking for information from him here is evident since they had already settled on the source of his miraculous power as demonic. (Matthew 12:22-37.) Why doesn't Jesus answer them directly in these situations?

Application

2. The true humanity of Jesus is subtly indicated in this passage as he gets hungry and looks for something to eat. When the fig tree fails to have fruit, why does he not exercise his miraculous power to cause it to bring forth fruit for him rather than cursing it? Is there an echo here of the first temptation Jesus faced in the desert? (Matthew 4:1-4) When he goes on to talk about the power of faith exercised in prayer what does this indicate about proper motivations? (James 4:3)

For your Families

3. Talk with your children about the power of faithful prayer to a God who can do all things.