

The Authority of Jesus

March 22nd & 23rd, 2014

Luke 20:1-8

At this point in the book of Luke, the chief priests and the scribes with the elders challenge Jesus, “*Tell us by what authority you do these things, or who it is that gave you this authority*”.

What are the facts of the authority of Jesus?

Jesus was born in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary, of the lineage of David, from the tribe of Judah. He was in Egypt, grew up in a small community called Nazareth and started His ministry right after John the Baptist came speaking of the Messiah. All of this was according to the prophecies of the Old Testament and would have been enough to establish Jesus’ authority. Yet, in addition to this, the authority of Jesus is displayed many times in the gospels: when He healed those with diseases; when He rebuked the demons and would not allow them to speak; when He said to the paralytic your sins are forgiven before He healed him; when He rebuked the wind and the raging waves in the Sea of Galilee and they were calm; when He resurrected Lazarus. We can go on and on mentioning all Jesus did, but for the chief priests, the scribes and the elders, nothing was enough! So they want to know, “*Tell us by what authority you do these things, or who it is that gave you this authority.*”

I. The Rejection of Jesus’ Authority is the Rejection of His Lordship

- ❖ The authority of Jesus is displayed in various ways right before Luke chapter 20.
 - ↳ When He enters Jerusalem, the multitude spread their cloaks in Jesus path and praise God with a loud voice saying, “*Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!*” Some of the Pharisees said to Jesus, “*rebuke your disciples.*”
 - ↳ Jesus weeps over Jerusalem, prophesying its destruction for not knowing the time of God’s visitation.
 - ↳ Jesus enters the Temple and drives out those who sold and bought in it, saying “*It is written, ‘My House shall be a house of prayer,’ but you made it a den of robbers.*”
- ❖ This passage in Luke 19 is a progression of the actions of Jesus that demonstrated who He was. For the priests, scribes and elders in Jerusalem, this required authority which, according to them, Jesus did not have.
 - ↳ Were they struggling with discerning Jesus’ authority or submitting to the Lordship of Jesus Christ?
- ❖ While the Pharisees could not deny Jesus’ authority, they also could not catch a glimpse of His greatness. Jesus’ authority over the Temple and Jerusalem demanded reverence to His Majesty, but they loved the glory of men, more than the glory of God.
 - ↳ When Jesus tells the parable of the Ten Minas in Luke 19, they knew that He had spoken this parable against them, but they were too proud to repent and too hardened to turn from their sins.
- ❖ Today is not different, in many ways the world is trying to undermine the authority of Jesus and the authority of His Word. From religions that have reduced the deity of Jesus to a vast number of people who have chosen to reject Jesus’ authority in light of their knowledge, they claim to be wise but they become fools. “*Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.*” *Romans 1:22-23*
 - ↳ The major religions of the world, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, are all rejecting the authority of Jesus. Also in the western cultures, secular humanism is fighting to prove that we can have good morals without Christian faith. Pluralism in the name of “tolerance” is rejecting Jesus as the only Savior and hope for humanity.
 - ↳ Hedonism claims that personal pleasure is the ultimate good.
 - ↳ But the most serious is that many of these false doctrines have deceitfully influenced Christian congregations proclaiming Jesus as a great teacher and example to humanity, even as a Savior, but rejecting Jesus’ Lordship in the way we live.

II. Jesus' Authority Demands Proclamation of His Lordship

- ❖ The leaders of Jerusalem failed to recognize that Jesus came to Jerusalem to save it from destruction. They failed to understand that Jesus owns the Temple, and He could do according to His will inside those porticos. They fail to proclaim with the multitude that He was that Son of David that was to come, so they decide to reject Him.
- ❖ Who is Jesus, and what authority did he have to act the way he did in these instances?
Acts 2:36 "Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."
Hebrews 1:2 "but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world." ⇒ Jesus is the exact representation of God.
John 1:1, 14 "...the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."
- ❖ When a person, through the grace of God, can catch a glimpse of the glory and majesty of Jesus we will be in awe of His greatness forever.
- ❖ Jesus is the creator and the sustainer of the universe. From the furthest star to the angle in the earth, from the sun and moon to the microscopic cell that we haven't seen, He is the creator.
- ❖ The book of Colossians speaks of Jesus having corporally all deity and substance of God.
Colossians 1:15-20; 2:9
- ❖ Very often people are looking for excuses to reject Jesus, many justify themselves claiming disbelief when in reality it is not disbelief, but disobedience.
- ❖ We are a culture characterized by individualism that tries to find salvation apart from God. Often, when we acknowledge God, it is in a moment of need when we are looking for a miracle. The rest of the time we want to maintain control of our own life.

III. Jesus' Authority Demands Dedication to His Lordship

Luke 6:46 "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?"

- ❖ There is more to His Lordship than calling Jesus Lord. Dedication to His Lordship is being willing to submit to Him in every way possible.
Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."
- ❖ Even after we become Christians we continue to struggle with God's demands on our lives. We struggle with the reality of what it means to allow Christ to truly be "the Lord of our lives."
- ❖ If we lack dedication to His Lordship, knowing already what we are supposed to be doing, and wonder how to move from knowing to acting, the answer rests on being able to get a glimpse of His authority, Jesus is God, and he is everything. His authority demands dedication to His majesty.

Luke 20:17-18

*"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone?
Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces,
and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."*

Endnotes:

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