

WHO HAS THE AUTHORITY?

MARK 11:27-12:17

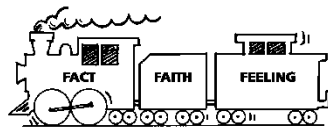
- the individual is king ¹



BOW DOWN! Jesus has God's authority (11:27-33)

- Jesus' authority questioned (vv. 27-28)

- Jesus' authority confirmed (vv. 29-33) ²



WATCH OUT! Those who reject the authority of God and His Son will be condemned (12:1-12)

- the story

- the owner plants a vineyard and leases it to tenants (v. 1) ³

○ the tenants reject the servants and the son (vv. 2-8)

○ the owner judges the tenants (v. 9)

○ the owner vindicates the son (vv. 10-11)

- the lessons

○ to reject the Son is treasonous ⁴

○ to reject the Son is disastrous

○ to reject the Son is pointless

PAY UP! Give the authorities what belongs to them (12:13-17)

- give to Caesar what is Caesar's ⁵



- give to God what is God's ⁶

¹ Carl Trueman's *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self: Cultural Amnesia, Expressive Individualism, and the Road to Sexual Revolution* (2020).

² **Mark 1:7-11; Matthew 28:18**

³ Jesus' allegorical parable is drawn from **Isaiah 5:1-7**

⁴ **John 15:23; 5:23**

⁵ Tiberius Caesar was the Emperor of Rome from AD 14-37. **Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17;**

⁶ **Genesis 1:27; Romans 12:1; Exodus 20:15; Ephesians 4:29**

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The Authority of Jesus Questioned

²⁷ They arrived again in Jerusalem, and while Jesus was walking in the temple courts, the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders came to him. ²⁸ "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you authority to do this?"

²⁹ Jesus replied, "I will ask you one question. Answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ³⁰ John's baptism—was it from heaven, or of human origin? Tell me!"

³¹ They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' ³² But if we say, 'Of human origin' ..." (They feared the people, for everyone held that John really was a prophet.)

³³ So they answered Jesus, "We don't know."

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

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants

¹² Jesus then began to speak to them in parables: "A man planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a pit for the winepress and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. ² At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. ³ But they seized him, beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ⁴ Then he sent another servant to them; they struck this man on the head and treated him shamefully. ⁵ He sent still another, and that one they killed. He sent many others; some of them they beat, others they killed.

⁶ "He had one left to send, a son, whom he loved. He sent him last of all, saying, 'They will respect my son.'

⁷ "But the tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' ⁸ So they took him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard.

⁹ "What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others. ¹⁰ Haven't you read this passage of Scripture:

"The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
¹¹ the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes?"

¹² Then the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders looked for a way to arrest him because they knew he had spoken the parable against them. But they were afraid of the crowd; so they left him and went away.

Paying the Imperial Tax to Caesar

¹³ Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words. ¹⁴ They came to him and said, "Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not? ¹⁵ Should we pay or shouldn't we?"

But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. "Why are you trying to trap me?" he asked. "Bring me a denarius and let me look at it." ¹⁶ They brought the coin, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"

"Caesar's," they replied.

¹⁷ Then Jesus said to them, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."

And they were amazed at him.