

Sermon Study Questions

August 21, 2022

1. Read Matthew 21:23-46
2. Why is the question of authority critical to answer before answering questions of substance, i.e. the question of how a person is saved?
3. In light of the previous day's events in the Temple, the Pharisees and elders of the people come to Jesus and ask Him where He gets His authority from. Jesus initially responds to them with a question about whether John's baptism comes from heaven or from man, saying if they answer that question He will answer their question. They refuse. So beginning in v.28 Jesus illustrates the point He wants to make about authority by giving The Parable of the Two Sons. What is Jesus' point, and how does this parable illustrate it?
4. Though the theme of this parable is authority, Jesus is also teaching us the truth that we're not saved by talk alone, but by faith alone. What does that mean, and how is it illustrated in this parable?
5. Having given this Parable of Two Sons, Jesus then immediately launches into another parable, The Parable of the Tenants. What in particular is this meant to illustrate to them about Jesus' authority?
6. In describing this scenario in the Parable of the Tenants where the tenants beat and stone and kill the servants the Master of the vineyard sends, and then kill the Master's son, Jesus affirms that when the Master returns He will "put those wretches to a miserable death" (v.41). What is that referring to?
7. What does the quotation mean from Psalm 118, "The stone the builder's rejected has become the chief cornerstone," followed by the statement in v.44 that "the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him"? How does it tie into and summarize this parable?
8. What is this entire section teaching us about Jesus' authority? How is it answering their question as to where Jesus gets His authority?
9. Why do you believe that Jesus does indeed speak with God's authority?
10. Pray!