

The Gospel According to Luke: 19:45-20:8

Sermon #83

Reading: Mark 11:15-33

Parallel Passages: *Matthew 21:12-27 and Mark 11:15-33*

All Authority Belongs To Jesus

Key Principle: Jesus Christ has **all** authority both in heaven and on earth; people either submit to Him or perish.

The world suffers from two problems with authority. Those with authority often abuse their authority and the people suffer as we are currently experiencing. The second, which is also evident in our country and the world, is the people resist authority. People by their fallen nature seek to throw off all rules and authority that restrict them from their sin. People do not want to submit to their bosses, teachers, parents, the government and the list could go on and on. It is the fallen nature of mankind to resist the authority of God. People work hard to convince themselves that they are in charge of their own lives and yet, with the current events it is ever more-clear that individuals have little control. America was built upon the ideals of one being self-made. People spend enormous amounts of energy to show they do not need God and can do everything themselves and control their lives. If one sat back, they could see the comparison between their behavior and that of a 2-year-old who quickly learns to say “mine” and refuses to share. Children have to be taught not to be selfish and consider others because they are born with a sin nature. Only Christ is able to transform the sinful heart.

There is however, one authority that every person will reckon with, one way or the other, that is the authority of Jesus Christ. In order to truly understand this one must ask the question, what does it mean when we say Jesus has **all** authority? On the screen is the Key Principle for this morning’s scripture passage; **Jesus Christ has all authority both in heaven and on earth; people either submit to Him or perish.**

You will notice the word “**all**”. The word “all” is defined as; completely, entirely, wholly, totally, everything or as those of us here in New Mexico would say, “the whole enchilada”. So, Jesus as the Creator of the universe controls every molecule.

His disciples last week proclaimed Jesus to be King sent by God. In other words, they were proclaiming Him ruler of Israel. “**Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!**” (Luke 19:38) This was the announcement from His followers as He entered into Jerusalem. Meaning Jesus is King blessed and sent by God. They still had not come to the understanding that Jesus is God. We however, having the advantage of possessing the entire Word of God, the Bible, know when we say that Jesus has authority, it means that He is self-authorizing in His judgments and decisions and therefore He is more than a king sent by God, but is both King and God. Jesus never asked anyone on earth for permission to do anything. All His decisions come from within His divine being. He is never manipulated or pressured into doing anything. He does what He wants and everything He wants is always good and true.

At twelve years old Jesus was found by His parents in the Temple discussing the Law of God with the religious leaders of the day. The Bible tells us in Luke 2, that they were astounded at Jesus’ understanding and knowledge. Even Jesus’ parents needed clarification; when His parents were distraught and looking for Him, He said to His parents, “**Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?**” (Luke 2:49) The Temple belonged to Jesus; it is His Father’s house, and therefore, His house. Jesus’ parents were having to deal with their Son being more than human and this was a lot to wrap their minds around.

Fast forward 18 years and the Apostle John informs his readers that Jesus began His public ministry with the first cleansing of the Temple. Reading from John chapter 2, beginning at verse 13, “**The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus**

went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. ¹⁵ And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ And he told those who sold the pigeons, ‘Take these things away; do not make my Father’s house a house of trade.’ ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written in *Psalm 69:9*, ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’ ¹⁸ So the Jews said to him, ‘What sign do you show us for doing these things?’ ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ ²⁰ The Jews then said, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?’ ²¹ But he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²² When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.” It was when Jesus rose from the dead that most of what he taught began to come into focus and people understood He is God the Messiah or Christ with authority over all.

The Jewish religious leaders resisted Jesus, for they desired to live by their authority and not God’s. At the time of our passage in Luke chapter 19 a couple of years has gone by since the first cleansing of the Temple and the money-changers and merchants had taken over their former spots in and around the Temple court. They were engaged in unscrupulous money trading and selling of sacrificial animals. Some of this was actually ordained by God, however, they had taken what God said and turned it into a money-making scheme because of the corruption of their hearts by the evil one, who uses their sin nature to promote disobedience towards God. The damage and dishonor towards God did not stop here for they not only turned the outer court into a market place but they were infringing on the ability for the Gentiles to worship because they were set up in the Court of the Gentiles, the place where the non-Jews could worship. The importance of Gentiles

worshipping at the House of God was written about by Isaiah, as we will see in a moment.

I hope this has given us some background, so that we can see the big picture today as we study the end of Luke 19 to the beginning of 20. This should help us clearly see that Jesus has the authority to determine everything, control everything and determine the outcome of everything in the world we live in. Specifically, today, He has the right to command proper worship rituals or practices that are honoring to God. Jesus does so here in this passage of almost 2000 years ago and He determines what is right for us today. All who came to God in the Old Testament came to Him through the Temple and its sacrifices that served as a covering until the Messiah or the Christ came. So, because of the corruption, the worship of God had to be purified if it was to be effective. Only acts of worship with the right heart are honoring to God.

Please stand as brother **Patrick** reads God's Word from the Gospel According to Mark to fill the hearts and mind of the community of Canyon Bible.

Amen! Please be seated.

Authority To Cleanse The Temple (v. 45-48)

As we begin to explore what Luke, inspired by God, wants us to learn this morning I take us to what I see as the key principle of this passage; **Jesus Christ has all authority both in heaven and on earth; people either submit to Him or perish.**

Jesus cleanses the Temple as predicted in the Old Testament. For Jesus to have fulfilled every prophecy found in the Old Testament, large and small, is beyond human ability, just as it is to count all the stars in the universe. Jesus the King cleansed the Temple of its false priests and false practices that dishonored

God. Chapter 2 of Malachi addresses the depth of the Temple priest's sin and how their corruption affected the people. In chapter 3 Malachi the prophet tells us of the cleansing that would come and is now here, "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But **who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?** For he is like a refiner's fire *the crucible for refining is over 3500 degrees Fahrenheit and like fullers' soap a fuller kabac* (kaw·bas) *was the individual who would take the raw, filthy wool from sheep and purify it using a variety of techniques, including an extremely harsh soap that would ultimately help to make it clean. It was an undesirable job. It was dirty work.* ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years." (Malachi 3:1-4) Understanding the meaning of refiner's fire and the job of a fuller gives deeper meaning for what the prophet wrote so long ago. As prophesized, the Lord would come to His Temple to refine and clean it, meaning to reform its practices, so that, God will again accept the sacrifices being made. The prophet is saying at the time the Lord comes to the Temple, in the future, the practices and sacrifices would no longer be pleasing or honoring to God. Because of the corruption of the Temple officials and the religious leaders of Israel the Temple was no longer glorifying and honoring God, but had become a Temple of corruption when Jesus entered.

Let me take us to our passage recorded in Luke chapter 19 beginning at verse 45, "And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, ⁴⁶ saying to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers." ⁴⁷ And he was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the

scribes and the principal men of the people were seeking to destroy him, ⁴⁸ but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were hanging on his words.” Jesus takes His statement “**My house shall be a house of prayer**” from chapter 56 of Isaiah. The prophet wrote 800 years before the coming of the Lord, ¹ “Thus says the LORD: ... ⁵ I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. ⁶ ‘And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant— ⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my **house of prayer**; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a **house of prayer for all peoples.**’ ⁸ The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, ‘I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.’ ” The House of Prayer was specifically a place where Gentile believers were accepted; “a house of prayer for **all peoples**”. The Gentiles could worship and offer sacrifices just as the Jews did. Isaiah tells us that Gentiles would not be cast off or forgotten by God. This was God’s promise, yet the moneychangers and others engaged in unsanctioned business and this was a roadblock to the fulfillment of this promise. So, Jesus must step in and purify the Temple. He alone has the authority to do so for as Isaiah prophesied, Jesus is Lord.

In verse 46, Jesus calls those using the Temple for business a “**den of robbers**”, here Jesus quotes the prophet Jeremiah. “The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ² ‘Stand in the gate of the LORD’s house *or Temple*, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all you men of Judah who enter these gates to worship the LORD. ³ Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place. ⁴ Do not trust in these deceptive words: ‘This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the

LORD, the temple of the LORD.’ ⁵For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly execute justice one with another, ⁶if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm, ⁷then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever. ⁸Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail. ⁹Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, ¹⁰and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, ‘We are delivered!’—only to go on doing all these abominations? ¹¹Has this house, which is called by my name, become a **den of robbers** in your eyes? Behold, I myself have seen it, declares the LORD. (Jeremiah 7:1-11) Literally, what Jeremiah and Jesus are getting at is that these false worshippers and false priests were living wicked sinful lives 6 days a week, then, entering the Temple to worship God thinking that this would right all the wrongs they had engaged in all through the week. God says, it is like when thieves hid out in caves scheming together for the next robbery, they may not rob for a period of time but robbery and corruption is still in their hearts and minds. Jeremiah says this corrupt behavior must change.

The same is true for us, do we live like we want to live 6 days and then come together on Sunday thinking that if I do my religious duty, listen to a sermon or say a prayer, God will overlook all my sin Monday through Saturday? Please understand God must have our devotion 7 days a week not just on Sunday. If the Lord’s Day is to be truly a day set apart, we must be worshipping God consistently every day in preparation for time in worship on the Lord’s Day. Going through some religious motions will not make up for a sinful, selfish lifestyle. God must have all of us and all our practices, all the time.

Luke informs us that our Lord had two big complaints that He would not let go unanswered. First, the Temple sacrifices no longer honored God for they had become corrupted. Jesus purified the Temple for as the prophets declared in the name of God; the Temple was to be a House of Prayer for all people. Secondly, the Temple was being used for corrupt money-making that dishonored God. With these two things taken care of, Jesus began to teach the truths of God in the House of Prayer and all the people listened intently or as Luke said in verse 48, “all the people were hanging on his words.”

The Lord’s Authority Questioned (Luke 20:1-8)

This brings us back to the key principle we need to take away from this passage; **Jesus Christ has all authority both in heaven and on earth; people either submit to Him or perish.**

We all know and have experienced what it means to be under authority. All of us are both given some authority and we operate under those generally with much more authority than we ourselves possess. But when it comes to Jesus Christ, authority is a very different reality. Reading at the beginning of chapter 20, “One day, as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes with the elders came up ² and said to him, ‘Tell us by what authority you do these things, or who it is that gave you this authority.’ ³ He answered them, ‘I also will ask you a question. Now tell me, ⁴ was the baptism of John from heaven or from man?’ ⁵ And they discussed it with one another, saying, ‘If we say, “From heaven,” he will say, “Why did you not believe him?” ⁶ But if we say, “From man,” all the people will stone us to death, for they are convinced that John was a prophet.’ ⁷ So they answered that they did not know where it came from. ⁸ And Jesus said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these

things.’” Jesus does answer to anyone, for He is God and certainly does not answer to those who call themselves priests of God, but refuse to submit to God.

In Matthew’s gospel account he records Jesus absolute claim to authority. Reading from the closing of Matthew in chapter 28, Jesus proclaims, “**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Because ALL authority belongs to Jesus in heaven and on earth He commands to all of His followers - ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.**” This is what is meant by absolute sovereignty. This is what is means to answer to no one outside of yourself, to possess ALL authority! Should be believe Jesus’ claim? All through the Gospels Jesus shows His authority, non-human authority, His complete authority and divine authority.

Lord’s Authority Proven

The people recognized Jesus’ authority as recorded a number of places in the Gospels, let me share a few. Reading from Matthew chapter 7, ²⁸ “**when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, ²⁹ for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.**” The people both recognized Jesus’ authority and that the scribes no longer had authority given by God.

The people of Israel knew that only God could forgive sins. Luke recorded Jesus’ authority to forgive sins in chapter 5, ²¹ And “**the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, ‘Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?’ ²² When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, ‘Why do you question in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier, to say, “Your sins are**

forgiven you,” or to say, “Rise and walk”? ²⁴ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins’—he said to the man who was paralyzed—‘I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.’ ²⁵ And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. ²⁶ And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, ‘We have seen extraordinary things today.’ ” The people recognized it was by the authority of God that Jesus had authority to forgive sin. Logic would then mean Jesus is God, even though not everyone made this connection.

Only God has authority and power over demonic forces. Jesus possesses authority of the Triune God who is One to save people from their sins, to judge all mankind and to sacrifice His life that those who believe and submit may have life eternal. Jesus alone had authority over the demonic and He demonstrated His authority and power over the demonic in Luke chapter 4, we read, ³³ “in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴ ‘Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.’ ³⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, ‘Be silent and come out of him!’ And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. ³⁶ And they were all amazed and said to one another, ‘What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!’ ” Even the demons recognize Jesus as God the Son and that He has authority over them. Jesus has authority over the evil one and all his demons – they have no choice but to obey.

Maybe a simple way to understand the essence of this authority is to grasp two Greek words that can be translated as authority. The first one is *dynamis* (**du-a-**

mes) usually translated as power; it is the word from which the English word dynamite comes. *Dynamis* refers to the ability to do something. The other word is *exousia* (**x-oo-si-a**) usually translated as authority such as in the first 8 verses of Luke chapter 20 where the word authority appears three times. *Exousia* means the right to do something. ***To have all authority then is to have all power and all right to do everything and anything one wills to do.*** Jesus has the ability to do whatever He wants. He has the right to do whatever He wants with whomever or whatever He wants and this is what is means to having all authority. He has both *dynamis* and *exousia*. He has the power because He is God. Even though Jesus is incarnate, even though He is God come in human flesh, even though He has lowered Himself as a servant to mankind, He still has the power and the authority to do precisely what God the Father who is in heaven wills Him to do, for He and the Father are One. There are no limits to His power. No one can withstand His power. There are no limits to His ability. He has both the right and the ability to do everything He wills to do and He wills to do what is in perfect harmony with the Father. Consequently, and this is the important point, Jesus never in His earthly life asked permission to do anything - never. There was no one higher other than His own Father as Jesus said, ³⁷ **“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.”** (John 6:37-38) No matter who and what government there was or now is, there was no authority to whom Jesus submitted to.

Jesus arrives at His Temple and He reclaimed it from the sinners who had made it a den of robbers. Those who had human authority, **the chief priests and the scribes with the elders**, but who no longer submitted to the authority of God challenged Jesus saying, ² **“Tell us by what authority you do these things, or who it is that gave you this authority.”** Jesus was a threat to their authority and power over the people. As all good Rabbis often did, Jesus responded to their question with one

of His own. Jesus responds, **“I also will ask you a question. Now tell me, ⁴ was the baptism of John from heaven or from man?”** Jesus is out to expose their blatant hypocrisy and sin and He does it so well that they are seething with anger.

Jesus had used the phrase, baptism of John to speak of John’s entire teaching and baptizing ministry. So, Jesus asks, was John’s ministry from God or from man? The point Jesus makes here is that if they answer Jesus’ question then He will answer theirs. These religious scholars are caught in a dilemma. So they huddle together, **“If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Why did you not believe him?’ ⁶But if we say, ‘From man,’ all the people will stone us to death, for they are convinced that John was a prophet.”** They were in a pickle; if they said John taught the truths of God as a prophet, they would also be affirming what John taught about Jesus. John announced as Jesus approached, **“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”** (John 1:29) As John was baptizing Jesus the voice of God the Father from heaven was heard, **“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”** (Matthew 3:17) These teachings of John the Baptist, the last prophet of the Old Testament about Jesus were witnessed by many and there were other truths about Jesus that John taught. There was no way these self-serving religious leaders would validate what John taught.

The second option was worse than the first; if they said John was not of God with the multitude convinced John was a prophet of God, the crowd would stone them for blasphemy. So, they take the path of politicians throughout history; they either answer with a non-answer or in this case they have no comment.

Jesus says, if you cannot answer this simple question, well then, I will not answer yours. Jesus knew that these religious leaders had already plotted and would come for Him in the darkness of night. Jesus had no more to say to these falsely pious men. There comes a time when the Lord quits speaking to people and gives

them over to their hard hearts and sin. Jesus would however, continue to teach the people who were coming to the Temple to hear Him teach the truths of God His Father.

This again brings us back to the key principle found in this passage; **Jesus Christ has all authority both in heaven and on earth; people either submit to Him or perish.**

★ When Jesus rose from the tomb; God the Father and the Apostles revealed even more authority Jesus possesses. “*God worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,* ²¹ *far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.* ²² *And God the Father put all things under Jesus’ feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,* ²³ *which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”* (Ephesians 1:20-23)

Our Lord has authority over the church just like He did over the Temple. What, if any, purification would Jesus need to do in your life? You are the Temple of the Holy Spirit, a spiritual temple made of living stones. Understanding who you are in Christ, what would Jesus’ reaction be to the way you worship and serve Him? What cleansing would Jesus need to do with Canyon Bible in order that His church would bring glory to God? One attempt to look at this question is why the men will be meeting on the 25th to discuss how we need to adjust or change for Canyon Bible to better serve our Lord and those outside our community that need to hear the Gospel. Let us spend time pondering and praying over these questions in the coming week. May the Lord renew our hearts to live for His glory! Amen!