

Jason Bradley

Lesson 9

Who Said You Could Do That?

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Imagine being 100% God and 100% human and receiving the question from a mere mortal, “Who said you could do that?” This was the case for Jesus. He constantly had His authority questioned, and in Mark 11:27-33, we see a conversation between Jesus, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. His authority was in question, but His response was simply divine.

Let’s join the conversation. Beginning in Mark 11:27 ²⁷ Then they came again to Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to Him. ²⁸ And they said to Him, “By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority to do these things?”

²⁹ But Jesus answered and said to them, “I also will ask you one question; then answer Me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things: ³⁰ The baptism of John—was it from heaven or from men? Answer Me.”

³¹ And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ³² But if we say, ‘From men’ ”—they feared the people, for all counted John to have been a prophet indeed. ³³ So they answered and said to Jesus, “We do not know.”

And Jesus answered and said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

One of the many things I love about Jesus is that He can spot a trap a mile away. The day before this confrontation took place, Jesus cleansed the temple, and I want us to notice something in Mark 11:18 - ¹⁸ And the scribes and chief priests heard it and sought how they might destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His teaching.

When our spiritual arteries become clogged with pride, jealousy, and malice, we need to recognize the warning signs that a spiritual heart attack is imminent. People who desperately crave attention are some of the most dangerous people to be around because they will do anything to get it. If you don't believe me, just watch some videos on TikTok.

The lesson posed the question, "What challenge did the religious leaders bring to Jesus, and how did He respond?"

The religious leaders basically asked Jesus, "Who said You could do that? Jesus responded to them with a question and said, "The baptism of John—was it from heaven or from men?" With that one simple question, Jesus put the religious leaders in check-mate. They realized they were trapped and attempted to lie their way out. The answer the religious leaders gave was, "We do not know." Their answer provided Jesus with the opportunity to refuse to answer their question.

In Mark 12:1-12 He takes His refusal to answer a step further and shares the parable of The Wicked Vinedressers with the religious leaders. Now, this parable can also be found in Matthew 21:33-46 and Luke 20:9-19. However, in the book of Matthew, we see another powerful parable

being shared prior to the parable of The Wicked Vinedressers, and that is The Parable of the Two Sons. Go with me to Matthew 21:28-32 - ²⁸“But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’ ²⁹He answered and said, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he regretted it and went. ³⁰Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I *go*, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of *his* father?”

They said to Him, “The first.”

Jesus said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw *it*, you did not afterward relent and believe him.

As we prepare to examine The Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers, I want us to look at it from the framework of Christ’s character.

2 Peter 3:9 - ⁹The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

With that in mind, let’s look at Mark 12:1-5: Then He began to speak to them in parables: “A man planted a vineyard and set a hedge around *it*, dug *a place for* the wine vat and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. ²Now at vintage-time he sent a servant to the vinedressers, that he might receive some of the fruit of the vineyard from the

vinedressers. ³ And they took *him* and beat him and sent *him* away empty-handed. ⁴ Again he sent them another servant, and at him they threw stones, wounded *him* in the head, and sent *him* away shamefully treated. ⁵ And again he sent another, and him they killed; and many others, beating some and killing some.

Hold your place in Mark chapter 12, and let's look at 2 Chronicles 36:15-16 where we see the fall of Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 36:15-16 - ¹⁵ And the LORD God of their fathers sent *warnings* to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending *them*, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. ¹⁶ But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till *there was* no remedy.

God can only give so many warnings before consequences become inevitable.

Journey with me back to **Mark 12:6-8**:

⁶ Therefore still having one son, his beloved, he also sent him to them last, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ⁷ But those vinedressers said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' ⁸ So they took him and killed *him* and cast *him* out of the vineyard.

Hold your place in Mark chapter 12, and let's look at **Acts 2:23-24**: ²³ Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; ²⁴ whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

Death could not hold our God, and that is GREAT news for us!

Let's go back to **Mark 12:9-12** and wrap this up:

⁹ "Therefore what will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the vinedressers, and give the vineyard to others. ¹⁰ Have you not even read this Scripture:

‘The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone.

¹¹ This was the Lord’s doing,
And it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

¹² And they sought to lay hands on Him, but feared the multitude, for they knew He had spoken the parable against them. So they left Him and went away.

So, what’s the application for us today? Desire of Ages p. 600: “By many illustrations and repeated warnings, Jesus showed what would be the result to the Jews of rejecting the Son of God. In these words He was addressing all in every age who refuse to receive Him as their Redeemer. Every warning is for them. The desecrated temple, the disobedient son, the false husbandmen, the contemptuous builders, have their counterpart in the experience of every sinner. Unless he repent, the doom which they foreshadowed will be his.”

Here's what I know: there is victory in Jesus! He wants to be Lord of your life and reign supreme on the throne of your heart. Let’s not reject our Redeemer.