

Scripture Passage: Luke 20:1–8

Story Point: In our sermon last week, Jesus cast merchants and money changers out from the temple in order to preserve it as a house of prayer. In this week's passage, Jesus is teaching in the temple in Jerusalem, and lots of people are listening to him, but not all of them are his friends. The chief priests and elders challenge his authority, but Jesus turns the challenge around. John the Baptist had told them where Jesus' authority comes from; do they believe John? If they say yes, they validate Jesus' authority as God. If they say no, the crowd, who still think of John as a prophet, will stone them. Rather than having courage in their convictions, the religious leaders claim they don't know. Since they are insincere and against Jesus, he sees no reason to give them an answer.

Discussion Questions:

- What does Jesus do that causes the chief priests, scribes, and elders to ask about his authority?
- The religious people in Luke 20 are questioning whether Jesus really has authority to say and do the things he has been doing. Do you think that God should have authority over your life? Why or why not?
- Are there any areas of your life where you think God doesn't get to have a say? Why?
- What do you find most challenging about God having authority over your life? Is there a specific area(s) that you find it difficult to allow God to tell you how to live? Why do you think that is?
- What reasons do we have to trust in God's authority over our entire lives?



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