

Losing Control

We Give Jesus Control Because He is King

Question of authority

Jesus takes a different approach

Previously:

*“But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.”*

*“The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath”*

*“You are the Christ!”*

This time: *A question about John the Baptist*

Modern objection

Someone might say something like this: *In Christianity the Bible and the church dictate everything that a Christian must believe, feel, and do. Christians are not encouraged to make their own moral decisions, or to think out their beliefs or patterns of life for themselves. We must be free to choose for ourselves how to live — this is the only truly authentic life.*

*How do we answer something like this?*

Who sits on the throne of your life?

**We Give Jesus Control Because He is Savior**

The Sanhedrin’s political calculus

*Backroom conversations*

*Not conviction, but control or cowardice*

A lesson from the OT – Hezekiah and Egypt

*Judges 7:2 ““The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’”*

*Do Not Go Down to Egypt! (Isaiah 30:1-2)*

“Ah, stubborn children,” declares the LORD,  
“who carry out a plan, but not mine,  
and who make an alliance, but not of my Spirit,  
that they may add sin to sin;  
<sup>2</sup> who set out to go down to Egypt,  
without asking for my direction,  
to take refuge in the protection of Pharaoh  
and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!”

*Psalms 91:1*

“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.”

**Questions for Personal Study**

1. How was Jesus a threat to the Sanhedrin?
2. How does their approach show their faithlessness and godlessness?
3. Is Jesus on the throne of your life?
4. How are you tempted to turn to something other than Jesus to save you (practically speaking?)