

The Ultimate AUTHORITY of Jesus Matthew 21:12-21

Introduction: What do you know about _____ ?

1. Know where authority _____ .
2. Know when to _____ to authority.
3. Know when to _____ authority.

Matthew 28:18, Romans 13:1-4, John 19:10-11, 2 Corinthians 10:8

1. Jesus' Authority over the _____ – 21:12-17

Who is _____ How would you answer that question? Here is what I see just in [Matthew 21:1-11](#):

A. Jesus didn't like what He _____ in the Temple – 21:12

¹² Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.

The Greek word “drove out” (Greek: *ekballō*) is the same verb used for casting out _____.

Warren Wiersbe comments, “Instead of praying for the people, the religious leaders were _____ on the people.”

B. Jesus Declared the _____ of the Temple – 21: 13

¹³ And He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’”

The word “*thieves*” (*lēstēs*) in Greek refers to _____ robbers—not petty crooks, but exploiters..

Matthew Henry notes, “The temple was profaned most by those who should have protected its sanctity.”

C. Jesus _____ in the Temple – 21: 14–17

¹⁴ Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. ¹⁵ But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant ¹⁶and said to Him, “Do You hear what these are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Yes. Have you never read, ‘Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise’?” ¹⁷ Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and He lodged there.

When the blind and the lame heard and saw what Jesus did, they came into the temple, and we read that, “*He healed them.*”

Jesus has authority over _____.

2. Jesus’s Authority over the _____ Tree – 21:18-19

A. The _____ upon the Fig Tree – 21: 18–19

¹⁸ Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. ¹⁹ And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves,

and said to it, *“Let no fruit grow on you ever again.” Immediately the fig tree withered away.*

Here we discover that Jesus has authority over nature – the fig tree.

Jesus speaks to the _____ and says, *“Let no fruit grow on you ever again.”*

J.C. Ryle wrote, “A religion which consists only in _____ form is a mockery in God’s sight.”

We read at the end of verse 19, *Immediately the fig tree withered away.*

3. The _____ about the Fig Tree – 21: 20–22

²⁰ *And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, “How did the fig tree wither away so soon?”* ²¹ *So Jesus answered and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done.* ²² *And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”*

You do not have because you do not ask. ([James 4:2b](#))

4. Jesus’ _____ Questioned – 21:23-27

A. Their _____ 21:23

²³ *Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, “By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?”*

The Greek word for “authority” (*Exousia*) implies _____ power or the right to act.

Dr. John MacArthur wrote, “Jesus’ authority was _____ their questioning revealed rebellion, not ignorance.”

B. Jesus' _____ – 21: 24–25

²⁴ But Jesus answered and said to them, “I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: ²⁵ The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?” And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’

C. Their _____ – 21: 26–27a

²⁶ But if we say, ‘From men,’ we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus and said, “We do not know.” And He said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

D. Jesus' _____ – 21:27b

²⁷ So they answered Jesus and said, “We do not know.” And He said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

Conclusion: Jesus demonstrated _____ authority—over the temple (worship), over disease, over nature, and over human hearts. The question is not whether Jesus has authority, but whether we will submit to Jesus’ authority.

Here are a few questions for us to think about:

1. Does _____ have fully authority in my life?
2. Am I producing _____ that reflects inward transformation?
3. Do I respond to Jesus with _____ or with evasion like the religious leaders?

Dr. Adrian Rogers said, “Either Jesus is _____ of all, or He is not _____ at all.”