

Passion Week

Devotionals

Holy Tuesday
by Justin Curl

Read | Matthew 21:23-27

In my living room I have a big red chair. It's probably the most comfortable spot in my house. It sits in the perfect place—by the windows on sunny days and across from my furnace on cold days. After a long day, that's usually where I end up. It's warm, familiar, and comfortable. And once I sit down, the last thing I want to do is get back up.

Comfort has a way of settling in like that.

In Matthew 21, Jesus is teaching in the temple when the religious leaders approach Him with a question: “By what authority are you doing these things? And who gave you this authority?” At first glance it sounds like a sincere question. But their concern wasn't really about understanding Jesus—it was about protecting their comfort and control.

Jesus' authority challenged the system they had built and the positions they held. If Jesus truly had authority from God, then it meant their lives—and their leadership—might have to change.

Sometimes our faith can look a lot like that comfortable chair. We love the parts of Jesus that bring peace, encouragement, and hope. We love being reminded that we are forgiven and loved. But when Jesus begins to challenge our attitudes, our priorities, or the areas of life we want to keep control of, suddenly following Him can feel a lot less comfortable.

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The religious leaders that day had a choice. They could recognize Jesus' authority and allow Him to reshape their lives, or they could hold tightly to the comfort of what they already knew. Sadly, they chose comfort.

Holy Week reminds us that Jesus didn't come simply to fit neatly into our lives. He came with authority—the kind that calls us to repentance, humility, forgiveness, and trust. Following Him means allowing Him to lead us even when it stretches us or moves us out of the places that feel most comfortable.

That red chair in my living room is great for resting. But growth rarely happens there.

As we reflect on this Tuesday of Holy Week, it's worth asking ourselves: Are there places in our lives where we admire Jesus but resist His authority? Are we willing to follow Him even when it moves us out of what feels comfortable?

Jesus' authority isn't meant to take something from us—it's meant to lead us into something better.

Prayer

Lord, help us not just to admire You but to truly follow You. Show us the places in our lives where we cling to comfort instead of trusting Your authority. Give us the courage to surrender those areas to You and to follow wherever You lead. Amen.