

SERVANT KING

A golden crown and a crown of thorns are positioned on either side of a vertical, torn paper effect. The crown of thorns is on the left, set against a dark background. The golden crown is on the right, set against a light background. The torn paper effect runs from the top to the bottom of the image, separating the two symbols.

A verse by verse study in
The Gospel of Mark

Who's in Charge?

Mark 11:27-12:12



Our study today regards the question of authority. It's a greater authority than a parent, government, or boss — it's the authority of Jesus Christ in our life.

Isaiah 5:1-7



I. People Challenge Jesus' Authority

1. Representatives of the Sanhedrin confronted Jesus.

2. Jesus did not escape the question. This wasn't a diversionary tactic.

- A traditional response to debate was to answer with a deeper question to probe the depths of what was asked.**

- **John's baptism was a preparation for the Messiah.**
- **At Jesus' baptism by John, Jesus was inaugurated and authorized by the Father.**

**3. The Pharisees had rejected John
and His teaching.**

And when all the people, including the tax collectors, heard this, they acknowledged God's way of righteousness, because they had been baptized with John's baptism. But since the Pharisees and experts in the law had not been baptized by him, they rejected the plan of God for themselves.

Luke 7:29-30 HCSB

- **It's not that they didn't know.
It's that they were unwilling to
know.**

**4. There is a limit to God's
patience.**

- There is nothing left for them
but judgment.**

And the Lord said, “My Spirit will not remain with mankind forever, because they are corrupt.”

Genesis 6:3 HCSB

- It's a dangerous thing to question or reject God's authority.



II. Jesus' Authority is Clothed with Grace and Mercy

1. The owner took great care in providing the means for a healthy productive vineyard.

- God took great care in providing the things necessary for Israel to be a great spiritual nation.**

2. The owner chose people to care for his vineyard – tenant farmers.

- God called out His people to be a kingdom of priests and provided the leaders to care for the nation.**

3. The owner sent his servants to check on the caretakers and collect the rent.

- Yet each one was either beaten or killed.**
- Why? Because the tenants had begun to assume the vineyard was their possession.**

They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.

Hebrews 11:37-38 NASB

4. Out of his great love, the owner then sent his son.

- **The son went as the heir, the father's last and final word.**
 - **And they killed him because they knew who he was!**

5. This is the sum total of human history.

- It is man's attempt to rid the universe of God.**
- If he can dispense with God, he can become his own god.**



III. Jesus' Authority Carries Judgment

If I were God, and the world had treated me as it treated Him, I would kick the wretched thing to pieces.

- Martin Luther

1. God persisted and persisted and persisted and then said it was enough.

2. Yet in all of that, His redemptive love showed through.

- **The stone rejected became the keystone to the whole structure.**
- **The rejected Son of God is the key to eternal hope and salvation.**

Let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead – by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Acts 4:10-12 ESV

**3. But for those who reject Him,
judgment awaits.**

- God is patient, but we must not
toy with His love.**

Jesus is the one who is ultimately in charge – it's dangerous to turn Him away. What Jesus does and can do for our lives has meaning only because of who He is.

