

AUTHORITY CHALLENGED – VS9-16

This is not the first time the Religious Elite have challenged Jesus concerning His authority to do and say the things He did. Any time He did or said things they found threatening or offensive, they wanted to know, as it were, **what gave Him the right!** They could not conceive of a person having authority within themselves. Their system was built on borrowed authority. Jesus demonstrated an authority that was self-possessed and the people who encountered Him found it refreshing. See Mark 1:21-22

Jesus used His authority to answer their question with a question. “...***tell Me, was the baptism of John from heaven or from man?***” Jesus is not being cute, He’s wanting them to deal honestly with truth, but truth was the furthest thing from their mind.

They understood that to say John’s authority came from God was to affirm Jesus’ authority came from God. Since they were unwilling to deal honestly with that truth Jesus refused to give them truth about His authority.

TRUTH POINT #1: Religious people often inquire with God about a matter. Not really wanting to know what is true. They simply want God to _____ their choices.

CONFRONTED WITH PROPHETIC IMAGERY – VS9-16

Despite their lack of interest in truth about Jesus’ authority, He takes the opportunity to lay a different truth one that would seal the deal, implicating them as enemies of God, and motivating them to act on their sinful impulses to see Jesus dead.

He tells a parable... one whose foundation comes directly from Old Testament Scripture. Take note of the characters of the parable.

- Vineyard = _____
- Tenants = Israel's Spiritual _____. See Isaiah 5:7; Mark 11:12
- The Man who planted the vineyard = _____
- The Servants = The _____
- The Son = _____

Jesus brings the parable to a crucial question: **What then will the owner of the vineyard (God) do to them?** Jesus said: ¹⁶ **He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.**"

TRUTH POINT #2: Do not be deceived by those who would peddle an all-inclusive, uber-tolerant, I'm OK your OK, Jesus. He is longsuffering with the unrepentant, but as sure as the sun will rise tomorrow, His wrath will fall on those who _____, _____, and/or _____ Him.

Despite Jesus' clear communication, we find that they could not, would not receive it... **"Surely not!" Surely God would never do that to us!**

A STONE OF PREMINENCE & JUDGEMENT – VS17-18

Luke says Jesus looked directly at them and asked... **What then is this that is written: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone?"** Jesus is quoting Psalm 118:22.

Psalm 118 is understood to be a Messianic Psalm. When the people used its words to praise Jesus as He entered Jerusalem, they were identifying Him as The Messiah. As Jesus quotes VS22, He is making Messianic allusions Himself. As Scripture says The Messiah would be rejected before becoming the Preeminent Stone in the foundation of God's Plan.

Jesus finishes off this interaction with a strong warning that applied to them, but continues to have ramifications to us in 2021

TRUTH POINT #3: The “Stone” (**Jesus**) who serves as the preeminent figure in the Spiritual House God is building, is also the “Stone” that brings _____ on those who reject Him as the only means of forgiveness of sin and right standing with God.

The first reference to “**falling on the stone**” comes from Isaiah 8:14-15.

TRUTH POINT #4: Jesus does not want His church to make His Gospel unappealing, but neither does He want us to hide the realities of its message of **exclusivity**, _____, or **judgement**, _____ for those who reject it.

The second statement about the “**stone falling on people**” is taken from Daniel 2:34-45.

TRUTH POINT #5: Jesus is the Stone of Isaiah and Daniel. He is an _____ to the proud of heart and a _____ to the unrepentant.

But He is a **loving, merciful** _____ to all who humble themselves in repentance and faith, receiving His grace, purchased by His blood on the cross and sealed by His resurrection from the dead.

WRAP UP

The inspired record of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell us that the religious elite of Israel not only stumbled over Jesus, but they were crushed by Him in judgement for their rejection of Him.

What about you? You don't have to stumble or be crushed. Today, you can hear His voice calling you to turn from sin and self to embrace Him as Savior and Lord. Today, you can walk away from all spiritual judgment to receive the mercy and grace of Jesus and become a dearly loved child of God.

Will you turn to Him?

Do you have questions?

Can we talk?

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Believer, do the people in your sphere of influence know about the Good News of Jesus? Can you explain it to them? Do you need to be equipped?

Will you let us equip you?

People around you may ultimately stumble over Jesus and be eternally broken, but don't let it be because you fail to be a witness of the life changing transformation that Jesus brings.