

Authority & Accountability

“Case For Christ”, part 39, Insights from Mark 11:27 - 12:12
Pastor Bob Johnson, October 23rd, 2022, GPC

A Timely C ...

(Mark 11:27-33)

- Jesus' authority is d _____ (v27-28)
- Jesus' authority is d _____ (v29-32)
- Jesus' authority is d _____ (v33)

A Telling C ...

(Mark 12:1-9, Isaiah 5:1-7, 20-21)

- God's p _____ & p _____ (v1-2)
- God's p _____ & p _____ (v3-5)
- God's final p _____ (v6-8)
- God's p _____ (v9)

A Triumphant C ...

(Mark 12:10-12, Psalm 118:22-23)

The Key Question (back then and today):

Who or what is my C _____ ?

(Acts 4:8-12, Isaiah 28:16-17)

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This Week's Discussion Guide

Welcome to our ninth week of our Fall Small Group Season at GPC! Our study and discussion this fall will be based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Case For Christ".

In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Gospel of Mark. Each week we will read and reflect on a passage from Mark's gospel and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

Getting Started:

Each week, we typically start out with a few lighter questions to get us warmed up :).

In Mark 11 and 12 we read how Jesus displayed His authority and held the religious leaders accountable for their actions inside and outside the temple. Speaking of accountability, when were you willing to be held accountable for something that was a benefit to you?

What are some ways providing accountability might move into over controlling or enabling?

In Mark 11:33, the religious leaders answered Jesus' question with "We do not know." Speaking of not knowing something, when did you not know a key piece of information that would have changed how you responded to someone or in a particular situation?

Rather than not knowing something, when do you remember knowing something that helped you in a moment make the right decision?

The temple in Jerusalem was and still is a special building with lots of history. Speaking of cool buildings, what is a building or location that you would enjoy visiting someday?

In Mark 12, Jesus tells a story about a man planting a vineyard. Speaking of planting or growing things, what have you ever tried to plant or grow? How did it go? What would you like to try planting or growing if you had the time?

Reviewing and Reflecting on last Sunday's Passage:

Let's read the main passage from last Sunday. (Mark 11:27 - 12:12)

After reading this passage and looking back on our notes from Sunday, was there a particular thought, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question for you?

Digging Deeper:

1. Last Sunday we heard how Jesus was questioned about who He was and by what authority he was making His claims. These same kinds of questions continue today as people learn about Jesus and try to understand Him.

Paul wrote in Colossians a passage that could be seen as a “mini-exposition” or description of Jesus. He wrote it to refute false teaching about Jesus. Let’s read Colossians 1:9-20 and share some insights about what God has called us to based on who Jesus is and what He has done for us.

From this passage, what are a few truths that would be helpful to remember about Jesus?

2. In the parable of the vineyard (Mark 12:1-12), we saw how the tenants lost sight of who the real owner of the vineyard was. It’s easy for us to do the same with our lives and the resources we have. What principles can we see in 1 Chronicles 29:10-17 that can help us remember who the real owner is of everything we have?

How does 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 expand the idea of ownership and what God ultimately wants to do with what He has given us?

What are some examples of how our lives could be different when we consistently remember that we are managers or stewards and not owners of the things we are tempted to call ‘our own’?

3. One of the keys to remembering the true owner of all we have is remembering what God has done and thanking Him for all He has done.

Let’s take some time to share what we can be thankful for as part of God’s provision for us.

4. In Mark 12, we read how the nation of Israel was described as a vineyard. In John 15, Jesus is described as the vine and we are branches growing from the vine. Let’s read John 15:1-2 and reflect on what God says needs to be done at times to produce more fruit?

When have you felt a bit of pruning from God? Can you see any fruit that came from that season where you felt God was calling you to let go (or cut back a little) of something that was not bad but looking back was actually holding you back from growing in way God wanted you to?

Wrapping Up:

What is an application from what we read or discussed together that you would like to practice in the coming days?

Is there anything that came up from this week’s sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for? Is there anything else on your heart that you would like to express prayer for?