**“The King’s House: Who’s In Charge Here?”**

**Matt. 21:23-32**

**(Notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 1/5/25)**

Who’s **really** in charge of your life?

Today’s scripture passage contains two vignettes, both dealing with submission to divine authority. In the temple scene, the religious leaders are insincere and self-absorbed. They want to be seen as devout. In the explanation of the parable, the same leaders come up short due to their unbelief and failure to submit. Even now, in 2025, Jesus forces a decision: yield to His authority, or retreat into self-absorption. Authority always merits deference and submission. Is Christ recognized as the authority over **ALL** aspects of your life? Do you submit to Him, obey Him, and follow Him? Do you?

Resistance to Jesus ultimately boils down to resisting His authority. The question the religious leaders ask really is, “Who do you think you are?!” “These things” that they refer to include: accepting the worship of the people as He rode in on a donkey, chasing away the money changers who defiled worship in the temple, healing the blind and the lame, forgiving sins, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and calling for people’s repentance and salvation. Clearly, Jesus’ authority came from Heaven, yet these teachers were too proud and too deluded to admit it. When confronted with the authority of Jesus, the Jewish religious leaders chose pragmatism over conviction. Even today people “go through the motions” of religion without submitting to Jesus’ authority.

Jesus perceived the insincerity of the religious leaders. They were lovers of **self**. They wanted to maintain power. They feared people, not God. But in His mercy, Jesus exposed their sin. Isn’t that the starting point for each of us? When we are convicted of our sin, we finally cry out for help. When we are convicted of our sin, we finally repent, believe, and follow Him. Repentance from sin is an act of surrender to divine authority. Jesus loves enough to confront the insincere. Matt. 21:30 also records one of the most wonderful truths in scripture: **The initial response does not have to be the ultimate response!** Aren’t you glad we have a God of second chances?! He gives us multiple opportunities to submit to Him, to turn to Him in faith, to surrender to His authority. But be careful: this phrase also applies to those who turned to Christ years ago. Are you submitting to Him in all things now? Here is the key to the whole message: **A person cannot believe in Christ without obeying Him.**

Jesus was given all authority (Matt. 28:18), but He also had to live under authority: He lived under the authority of His earthly parents. He lived under the flawed Roman civil authority. He lived under the authority of the Father. He lived under the authority of the Holy Spirit. Why? So that He could be the sinless substitute for you and me. He wants to set us free from condemnation and guilt (Rom. 8:1). Now read John 11:25-26. Do you believe this? Does this inform your decisions and structure your life? That’s what it means to live under His authority. So do it! Submit to His gracious authority (Rev. 22:14)!

**QUESTIONS**:

1. Jesus’ divine authority angered the religious leaders. Why?
2. Why did Jesus respond to the chief priests’ question with His own question about John the Baptist’s authority?
3. In today’s parable, which son describes you? Have you ever been rebellious? Has this changed over time? Why?
4. In what ways do people today question the authority of Jesus? This is a very important question, SO DIG DEEP! Which of Jesus’ teachings do people ignore because it is not “culturally expedient” (or maybe we just think we know better than He does!!!)? Now stop and pray that the Holy Spirit would convict the person you are thinking of of their need to repent and submit to Jesus’ authority.

**“Have Thine Own Way, Lord” (Pollard)**

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!

Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.

Mold me and make me after Thy will,

While I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!

Search me and try me, Master, today!

Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now,

As in Thy presence humbly I bow.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!

Wounded and weary, help me, I pray!

Power, all power, surely is Thine!

Touch me and heal me, Savior divine.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!

Hold o’er my being absolute sway!

Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see

Christ only, always, living in me.