

Living a Christ-Centered Life

LESSON 20: A Christ-Centered Life Submits to Authority

In Ch. 20, Jesus is being tested, questioned, and accused; and the Jewish leaders are trying to trick him so they can have him arrested. One of things they are questioning is the *authority of Jesus*. In other words, who gave him permission to teach what he is teaching and do what he doing; and what gives him the right anyway?

This brings up a good lesson for Christ-centered people - do you submit to the authority of Jesus? Back in ch.19, we saw how Jesus is portrayed as the King. Some believed and some rejected him. For those who believe that Jesus is the king of our lives, we must constantly submit to his authority.

Question to consider:

1. By what authority does a parent tell their children what to do?
2. What do you do when your authority is challenged?

Word Study Challenge: What do these words teach us about accepting the authority of Jesus?

V. 2 "Authority"

V. 17 "Rejected"

V. 20 "Power"

Where does authority come from? (20:1-8)

- Why is authority necessary in teaching. Why? (John 5:19-23)
- What's the difference between authority you are given and authority you assume?
- Why did the Jewish leaders refuse to answer Jesus question about John?

Rejecting the authority of the Son of God. (20:8-19)

- What is the main point of this parable?
- Why did the Jewish leaders want to get rid of Jesus?

What does the following event teach about why we submit to authority? (20:20-26)

- Why did Jesus say paying taxes was the right thing to do?

The authority of the scriptures

- Why did the teachers of the law say "well said, teacher"?
- Read Matthew 22:29. What did Jesus say was the reason behind their question?

The authority of Jesus Christ vs. the authority of sinful leaders

- Why does Jesus have authority? What is the message from the Psalms quote?
- How do the Jewish leaders use their authority? (Read Matt.23:1-12 and compare it to Luke 22:25-27)