

The Story of Jesus  
(Lesson 27)

Introduction:

1. Growth in the knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 3:18) requires careful Bible study (John 5:39).
2. Jesus' authority is an important subject addressed numerous times in the Scriptures.
3. A proper understanding of Jesus' authority and submission to it will clear up much of the confusion that exists in religion today.

Discussion:

- I. DURING HIS MINISTRY JESUS WAS QUESTIONED ABOUT HIS AUTHORITY (Matthew 21:23-27)
  - A. (vs.23a) The Jewish leaders approached Jesus in the temple while He was teaching.
    1. These people had been plotting against Jesus for some time (Matthew 12:14).
    2. They were looking for something they could use against Him.
  - B. (vs.23b) These men questioned Jesus about the source of authority for the things He did.
    1. Jesus had:
      - a. entered Jerusalem as Zechariah had prophesied (vs.1-11; Zechariah 9:9)
      - b. cleansed the temple (vs.12-14).
    2. These men wanted to know who gave Jesus the authority to do these things.
  - C. (vs.24-25a) Jesus agreed to reveal the source of His authority to these men if they would answer His question about John's baptism--*was it from heaven or men?*
  - D. (vs.25b-27a) The Jewish leaders refused to answer the Lord's question because they realized their hypocrisy had been exposed.
  - E. (vs.27b) Jesus refused to reveal the source of His authority.
- II. LATER, JESUS CLAIMED TO HAVE ALL AUTHORITY (Matthew 28:18)
  - A. He has "*all power [authority] in heaven and in earth.*"
  - B. He also said that His authority had been given to Him.
  - C. In John 17:1-2 Jesus stated that the Father had given Him His authority.
- III. THE SCRIPTURES TEACH THAT JESUS DOES INDEED HAVE ALL AUTHORITY
  - A. The Father identified Jesus as His "*beloved Son*" (Matthew 3:17; 17:5).
  - B. As God's Son, Jesus demonstrated His authority:
    1. in His teaching (Matthew 7:28-29)
    2. by calming the stormy sea (Matthew 8:23-27)
    3. by forgiving a man's sins (Matthew 9:2-8)
    4. by casting out unclean spirits (Mark 1:23-27)
    5. by delegating authority to His apostles (Luke 9:1-2)
    6. by His resurrection (Romans 1:4).
  - C. Jesus' position reflects His authority.
    1. Peter declared that Jesus is "*by the right hand of God exalted*" (Acts 2:33).
    2. At God's right hand, Jesus rules as the head of His church (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18).
    3. Jesus is God's spokesman today (Hebrews 1:1-2).
    4. Jesus is "*King of kings, and Lord of lords*" (1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 19:16).
- IV. APPLICATION
  - A. There are only two possible sources of authority in religion: *heaven [the Lord]* and *men*.
  - B. Submission to:
    1. man's authority is a serious mistake (Matthew 15:9).
    2. the Lord's authority results in a blessing (James 1:25).
  - C. Concerning everything that is said or done, Christians must submit to Jesus' authority (Colossians 3:17).
  - D. By letting the Lord's Word dwell in us richly in all wisdom, we will know what He wants us to say and do (Colossians 3:16).
  - E. Those who reject Jesus and His Word will pay the price (John 12:48).