

Jesus Christ, the Son of God

Studies in the Gospel of Mark

The Chief Cornerstone

Lesson 16

Mark 11:27-12:17

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School

April 18, 2021

The Chief Cornerstone

- ▶ The stone rejected by the builders has become the chief cornerstone
 - The cornerstone secures the integrity of the building
 - Despised, forsaken, not esteemed (Isaiah 53:3)
 - The Cornerstone of the household of God (Ephesians 2:19-22)
- ▶ The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God
 - The O.T. is the introduction to the work of Jesus Christ
 - Mark's Gospel presents the revelation of God in Christ with new clarity
- ▶ The message of Mark's Gospel
 - Christ gave His life a ransom for many (10:33-34; 45)
 - Christ demonstrated and taught the life of faith (8:34-35)
- ▶ Lesson 16 – Mark 11:27-12:17
 - The question of authority (11:27-33)
 - The defiance of authority (12:1-12)
 - The submission to authority (12:13-17)

The Question of Authority (11:27-33)

- ▶ By what authority are You doing these things? Who gave You this authority?
- ▶ Sanhedrin: chief priests, Saducees, Pharisees, elders (non-religious leaders)
 - Agents of His death (8:31; 9:31; 10:33-34)
 - Agents of the god of this world
 - Self-appointed authority over religious life
- ▶ What authority? What right to act? What power to act?
- ▶ “These things”: cleansing the temple; casting out demons; teaching
- ▶ Intent: not truth, but His destruction (3:6; Luke 19:47-48)

The Question of Authority (11:27-33)

- ▶ Was John's baptism from heaven or from men. Answer Me!
- ▶ The "trappers" are trapped!
 - If from heaven – Why not obey?
 - If from man – risk of popular uprising
- ▶ The self condemning lie: "We do not know."
 - An illustration of the fruitless fig tree
 - Fear of man more than fear of God (15:10)
- ▶ Exchanged the truth of God for a lie (Rom 1:21-25)
- ▶ Jesus did not answer – He gave them over to their folly
- ▶ The answer: Authority is either from God or from men

A Parable of the Vine-growers (12:1-12)

- ▶ O.T. figures for Israel: olive tree; fig tree; grape vine (Hab 3:17; Isa 5:1-7)
- ▶ The parable (12:1-8)
 - The vineyard prepared and rented to vine-growers
 - The owner left on a long journey
 - The harvest share sought
 - The messengers physically abused, treated shamefully, killed
 - The beloved son killed and thrown out of the vineyard
- ▶ The intent of the vine-growers – inherit the vineyard
- ▶ What will the owner do?
 - Absolute authority v. delegated authority
 - Justice – removal of the vine-growers and replacement
- ▶ The cost of defiance of authority born by the owner
 - Is the owner good and wise?

The Rejected Stone (Psalm 118:19-29)

- ▶ A Thanksgiving Psalm for His love and goodness (118:1, 29)
- ▶ The rejected stone is YHWH'S doing (118:22-23)
 - The rejected stone is the cornerstone
 - It is “wonderful” – a demonstration of God’s wisdom and goodness
- ▶ It is the gateway to righteousness – salvation (118:19-21; 25)
- ▶ Time – suffering and death – essential to the work of salvation
- ▶ The mighty gulf: God’s wisdom v. man’s wisdom (Isa 55:8-9)
- ▶ A personal cause for thanksgiving: He is waiting for US
 - This precious value is for you who believe (1 Peter 1:10-16; 2:4-10)
 - We are built upon this Cornerstone (Eph 2:19-22)
 - The life of Christ (“tested”) in us makes us holy (Isa 28:16)

The Authority Trap (12:13-17)

- ▶ The trap is set by the Pharisees and Herodians (3:6)
- ▶ “Is it lawful to pay a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?”
- ▶ “Bring Me a denarius to look at (*the inscription*).”
 - Side 1: Tiberius Caesar Augustus, Son of the Divine Augustus
 - Side 2: Highest Priest
- ▶ “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.”

Things That Are God's

- ▶ All authority in heaven and earth given to Jesus (Matt 28:18)
- ▶ Seated at the Father's right hand . . . all things in subjection (Eph 1:20-21)
- ▶ All other authority is delegated authority
 - A temporary state (1 Cor 15:24)
 - A divine ordinance (Rom 13:1-2)
 - Not an indication of favor (Dan 4:17)
 - Not contrary to God's purpose (Acts 4:27-28)
- ▶ His authority is absolute in heaven and earth (Dan 4:34-35)

Thing's That Are Caesar's

- ▶ Authority to rule
 - The ordinance of God (Rom 13:1-2; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13)
 - Authority to do good and provide order and safety (Rom 13:3-6; Prov 16:12)
 - Authority to punish evil doers and praise those who do right (1 Pet 2:13-15)
 - Be subject, not to avoid wrath but for conscience sake (Rom 13:5)
 - Authority to receive honor (1 Pet 2:17)
- ▶ The duty of believers under abusive authority?
 - Do not stop teaching in the name of Christ (Acts 4:16-22; 5:28-32)
 - Do not murder or serve idols (Exo 1:17; 2:2-3; Daniel 3, 6)
 - David spared Saul who sought to kill him (1 Sam 24:10-13; 26:6-20)
 - Israel suffering but Moses was 40 years too early (Acts 7:23-25)
 - Pay unjust customs or poll taxes on “sons” (Matt 17:24-27)
 - Christ endured abuse and the cross (1 Peter 2:21-25)
- ▶ Submission is to the will of God
 - Prov 16:4; 21:1; 1 Peter 4:13, 19
- ▶ The Pharisees and Herodians were amazed

The Chief Cornerstone

- ▶ The Cornerstone of the Household of God (Eph 2:19-21)
 - His work is the basis for the Household of God – our righteousness
 - His life is the pattern for the Household of God – our holiness
- ▶ He exercises His authority over all for the good of His people
- ▶ We are commended to God by our weakness, not our strength (2 Cor 12:8-10)
 - “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.”
- ▶ “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.” (Mark 8:34-35)