

“You’re Not the Boss of Me!”

1. Intro:

1.1.

2. TEMPLE TEACHING! (19:45-48)

2.1. The house of God was turned into a place of traffic for personal enrichment.

2.1.1. Jesus restores it, for a brief hour at least, to its original purpose.

2.2. I always thought it interesting that He calls the Temple *a house of prayer*, & then turns it into *a house of preaching*.

2.2.1. He teaches each morning, Mon-Thurs. (see Lk.21:37)

2.2.2. He leaves Jerusalem & spends the night on the Mount of Olives.

2.2.2.1. The city rejected Him. He rejects the city.

2.3. According to G. Campbell Morgan, a den of thieves is “a place where thieves run to hide after they have committed their wicked deeds”.

2.3.1. The only place given to Gentile to worship the one true God was an animal market.

2.3.2. The one place that God has specifically assigned to Gentile evangelism was rendered ineffective.

2.4. Q: Are you attentive to hear him today?

3. YOU'RE NOT THE BOSS OF ME! AUTHORITY ISSUES!(20:1-19)

3.1. When Christian Herter was *governor of Massachusetts*, he was running hard for a 2nd term in office. One day, after a busy morning chasing votes (& no lunch) he arrived at a church barbecue. It was late afternoon and Herter was famished. As Herter moved down the serving line, he held out his plate to the woman serving chicken. She put a piece on his plate and turned to the next person in line. “Excuse me,” Governor Herter said, “do you mind if I have another piece of chicken?” “Sorry,” the woman told him. “I’m supposed to give 1 piece of chicken to each person.” “But I’m starved,” the governor said. “Sorry,” the woman said again. “Only 1 to a customer.” Governor Herter was a modest and unassuming man, but he decided that this time he would throw a little weight around. “Do you know who I am?” he said. “I am the governor of this state.” “Do you know who I am?” the woman said. “I’m the lady in charge of the chicken. Move along, mister.”

3.1.1. What we’re dealing with here is regarding authority, submission, surrendering, yielding...or not!

3.1.2. Q: What gives you the right to come into Jerusalem like a King?

3.1.3. Q: What gives you the right to cleanse the Temple?

3.1.4. Q: What gives you the right & Who gives you the right?

- 3.1.5. **Vindicate** your position; **justify** your deeds!
- 3.1.6. Well, we'll see it wasn't their **ignorance** but their **intentional opposition** to God's will.
- 3.2. **LET'S NOTE 3 THINGS ABOUT THEIR REJECTION OF JESUS:**
- 3.3. **[1st] their Rejection of Jesus was not because of a **lack of knowledge** but because of **unwillingness to accept the truth!** (1-8)**
- 3.4. "You want to talk authority? Ok, what about **John's Authority?**"
- 3.4.1. **Where'd it come from?**
- 3.5. They had rejected the ministry of **John the Baptist**, & that led to their refusal to **trust Christ**.
- 3.5.1. **"You may forget your decisions, but they will not forget you!"** (www)
- 3.6. (5) **Who says that's what Jesus would've said?**
- 3.6.1. If they'd agree to John being "*from heaven*" then maybe he would have answered their question with simply, "consult what He said about Me!" {didn't feel worthy to "loose My sandals"; "I had come w/fan, fire, & axe, the Messiah of God"; "behold the Lamb of God"}
- 3.7. We would rather **run our own lives**, and **live as we please**.
- 3.7.1. **We would rather be like God**, than to be **answerable to Him**.
- 3.7.2. **Sin rejects God's authority** and seeks to **live autonomously**.
- 3.8. For centuries people believed that **Aristotle** was right when he said that **the heavier an object**, the **faster it would fall** to earth. Aristotle was regarded as the greatest thinker of all time, and surely he would not be wrong. Anyone, of course, could have taken 2 objects, 1 heavy and 1 light, and dropped them from a great height to see whether or not the heavier object landed first. But no one did until nearly 2, 000 years after Aristotle's death. In **1589 Galileo** summoned learned professors to the base of the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Then he went to the top and pushed off a 10-pound & a 1-pound weight. Both landed at the same instant. **The power of belief** was so strong, however, that the professors denied their eyesight. They continued to say Aristotle was right!
- 3.9. **Their Rejection of Jesus** was not because of a **lack of knowledge** but because of **unwillingness to accept the truth!**
- 3.9.1. God never condemns men for **ignorance**, but for those who **have the light & disobey it**.
- 3.9.2. **Q: Does Christ have authority in your life?**
- 3.10. **[2nd] their Rejection of Jesus would ultimately result in **His Death!** (9-16)**
- 3.11. Listen to this **great summary** of Jewish history past & present. (God's redemption)
- 3.11.1. Here is God's **Cliff Notes** to the Big Picture!

- 3.12. The story of a vine & vinedresser was not a new figure to them.
- 3.12.1. **Asaph** talks about a vine that God brought out of Egypt & planted Ps80:8.
- 3.12.2. **Ezekiel** uses this 4/5 times; **Jeremiah** refers to it; **Hosea** uses it.
- 3.12.3. **The Vine was the symbol of the Jewish people.** Even found on the great & beautiful gate of the Temple, known as the golden vine.¹
- 3.12.4. **The Vine failed to produce the fruit!**
- 3.13. They also knew what was required as the “renters/tenants” of the field.
- 3.13.1. Just like you do when you rent a car, an apartment, or go to a rental yard. [Chainsaw rental – I knew exactly what was expected of me]
- 3.14. (13) Here is *The Owners* crowning effort...His only begotten Son.
- 3.14.1. That’s right, they said when John the Baptist baptized Him, a voice was heard that said, “*this is My beloved Son!*”
- 3.15. **Illustration of Aesop’s fable of the wind and the sun trying to get the cloak off the man:** The **Wind** and the **Sun** were disputing which was the stronger. Suddenly they saw a traveler coming down the road, and the Sun said: "I see a way to decide our dispute. Whichever of us can cause that traveler to take off his cloak shall be regarded as the stronger. You begin." So the Sun retired behind a cloud, and the Wind began to blow as hard as it could upon the traveler. But the **harder** he blew the **more closely** did the traveler wrap his cloak round him, till at last the Wind had to give up in despair. **Then** the Sun came out and shone in all his glory upon the traveler, who soon found it too hot to walk with his cloak on.
- 3.15.1. Unlike the wind, God **could have forced submission**; but He chooses to use **Love** that man might submit unto Him.
- 3.15.2. Thus he does the most loving thing in sending His **beloved Son!**
- 3.16. **Does anyone realize, the murder of His Son, was the final rejection of the Owner!**
- 3.17. (16) The nation’s rejection would **cost them.** [*Jesus excommunicated the nation*]
- 3.17.1. **The kingdom would go to new tenants!** (See Mt.21:43)
- 3.18. **Certainly not** – “may this never be!”(NIV)
- 3.18.1. (LKGNT) “*May the whole story never happen.*” (Ardnt)
- 3.18.2. **They are in danger of losing their authority!** The gospel of John records that very statement.
- 3.19. **Q: Hey, how are the new tenants doing?**
- 3.20. **Their Rejection of Jesus would ultimately result in His Death!**

¹ Gospel According to Luke; G. Campbell Morgan; pg.225.

- 3.21. **[3rd] their Rejection of Jesus had solemn and eternal consequences!** (17-19)
- 3.22. (17) **What then is this? – Why this verse?**
- 3.23. Here is God's commitment to His Son, despite Jewish rejection.
- 3.23.1. **From rejected stone, to chief cornerstone**(foundation stone)!
- 3.23.2. I think they got their answer to authority! - Here is Christ's clear claim to **supreme authority!**
- 3.23.3. **And all would be singing this Psalm w/in a few hours. (Hallel - Ps.113-118)**
- 3.24. In these verses God offers us a choice of "brokenness-es."
- 3.24.1. Those who **cast themselves** on Jesus, **submitting their wills and all they are** too him.
- 3.24.1.1. They will be broken by him of arrogance, hard-heartedness, and self-centeredness.
- 3.24.2. It is a not a pleasant process but a very necessary one.
- 3.25. **But** for those who do not submit to him, he will ultimately "fall on them," an experience infinitely worse which the Bible says will be "crushing."
- 3.25.1. The choice is yours, **broken before him or crushed by him.**
- 3.25.2. **Christ either saves you or judges you; there is no middle ground.**
- 3.25.3. Vs.19 reveals that the religious leaders "*knew he had spoken this parable against them*" but they were **too proud to repent, & too hardened to turn from their sins.**
- 3.26. **Their Rejection of Jesus had solemn and eternal consequences!**
- 3.27. **Surrender:**
- 3.28. **"When the will of God crosses the will of man, somebody has to die."**
- 3.29. Andrew Murray, "God is ready to assume full responsibility for the life wholly yielded to Him."

Two battleships assigned to the training squadron had been at sea on maneuvers in heavy weather for several days. I was serving on the lead battleship and was on watch on the bridge as night fell. The visibility was poor with patchy fog, so the captain remained on the bridge keeping an eye on all activities. Shortly after dark, the lookout on the wing reported, "Light, bearing on the starboard bow." "Is it steady or moving astern?" the captain called out. The lookout replied, "Steady, Captain," which meant we were on a dangerous collision course with that ship. The captain then called to the signalman, "Signal that ship: 'We are on a collision course, advise you change course twenty degrees.'" Back came the signal, "Advisable for you to change course twenty degrees." The captain said, "Send: 'I'm a captain, change course twenty degrees.'" "I'm a seaman second-class," came the reply. "You had better change course twenty degrees." By that time the captain was furious. He spat out, "Send: 'I'm a battleship. Change course twenty degrees.'" Back came the flashing light, "I'm a lighthouse." ... *We changed course!*

Queen Victoria & her husband, **Prince Albert**, quarreled about something early in their marriage. Albert walked out of the room and went to his private quarters. Victoria followed, found the door locked, and began pounding on it. "Who's there?" Prince Albert asked. "The Queen of England," was the reply. But the door remained locked. More pounding followed, but then there was a pause. The next sound was that of a gently tap. "Who's there?" Albert inquired. The queen's reply: "Your wife, Albert." Prince Albert opened the door immediately.

How do you wield your authority?