

Why People Are Not Willing to Follow Jesus - Let's Go

Mark 11:27-33

11-14-21

I. We Reject the Lord's Authority.

Mark 11:27-28 – “And they came again to Jerusalem. And as he was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to him, and they said to him, ‘By what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?’”

Matthew 23:37-38 – “...Jerusalem...How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her chicks...and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you desolate.”

Mark 1:22 – “And they were astonished at his teaching, for He taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.”

Mark 1:27 – “And they were all amazed...saying...with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.”

Mark 2:10-11 – “But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins’—he said to the paralytic—...rise, pick up your bed, and go home.”

John 20:28 – “Thomas said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’”

2 Corinthians 4:5 – “For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus’ sake.”

1 Corinthians 12:3 – “...no one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.”

II. We Refuse to Believe the Truth.

Mark 11:29-31 – “Jesus said to them, ‘I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. Was the baptism of John from heaven or from man? Answer me.’ And they discussed it with one another, saying, ‘If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’”

Romans 1:18-19 – “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven...who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.”

III. We Love the Praise of People More Than God.

Mark 11:32-33 – “But shall we say, ‘From man’? —they were afraid of the people, for they all held that John really was a prophet. So they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’ And Jesus said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.’”

Walking in the fear of the Lord is living in a continual state of love, respect, and reverence for God and His name.

Proverbs 14:26 – “In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge.”

Going Deeper This Week

1. What gave Christ the courage and boldness to confront the religious leaders in the temple? How can we have the same courage and boldness to confront the enemies of God today? (Read Joshua 1:9)
2. On what basis did the Sanhedrin claim their own authority? Where should genuine Christian leaders derive their authority? How can the church and its members investigate and validate the authority of leaders? (Read Acts 17:11)
3. Why do people naturally question and resist authority? What is the connection to the fall in Genesis 3?
4. What is the challenge in submitting to Christ’s authority? What are the rewards?
5. How does the fear of people affect someone who is considering repenting and following Christ? How does the fear of people often affect a Christian? What does a fearless disciple look like?
6. How does fear of people affect Christian leaders? How can you encourage your leader not to be swayed by fear of man?
7. Pray for one another.