

## Sermon Discussion Questions

January 16, 2022

Mark 11:27-12:12

1. Who do you recognize as authorities in your life? Or, perhaps phrased, whose voices do you consider to be authoritative for how you think, work, live? If you think about the areas of finance, theology, education, health, law, or daily living, who are the most significant voices you listen to that hold weight in your life and why?
2. This passage speaks a lot about the question of authority, who has it, who wants it, and how it is held. Can you summarize the dynamics of power in the passage we read together? Why do the priests and teachers of the law assume they have authority in the conversation and why does Jesus presume a greater authority over them?
3. Andrew suggested that one takeaway for us is the nuance that we are not owners, but stewards. What is the difference between ownership and stewardship in the context of this passage and how might that apply to your life?
4. What are some places of power, privilege, or influence that you have? What are ways to use those things for the benefit of others and their flourishing rather than simply your own?
5. In the background of this passage is Malachi 3, Isaiah 5, Psalm 118 (just to name a few, there are more!). All throughout Mark, we've seen Jesus continually drive the reader back to Israel's scriptures. Why do you think Mark's gospel account, and the life of Jesus, are so intertwined with Israel's scriptures? What significance does that carry when you think about Jesus' quotation of Psalm 118 that "the stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone"?