

The Authority of Christ
Matthew 21:12-27

Review:

1. Jesus calls us to acknowledge His authority, believing the testimony of all the prophets
2. Jesus calls us to submit to His authority, bearing the fruit of worship and trust
3. Jesus calls us to share in His authority through earnest, faithful prayer

Reflect:

1. What part of your life are you having difficulty surrendering to Jesus' authority?
2. In what ways do you think God is calling you to bear more fruit for Him?
3. Given Jesus' encouragement that faithful prayer can move even the greatest of mountains, how do you plan to pray about these things?

Go further: Read Psalm 8

1. David begins and ends the psalm the same way, with verse 1 and verse 9 using exactly the same words. In this pair of "bookends," how does David describe God's relationship with His people?
2. What does David say is true about God's name?
3. According to the last line of verse 1, how does David describe God's glory?
4. The Hebrew word translated as "strength" in verse 2 can also mean "praise." According to the first line of verse 2, who is able to praise God?
5. What does verse 2 insist that the praise of children does to God's enemies?
6. In verse 3, what part of God's creation does David describe? How does he say God created all these things?
7. When looking at the night sky, what does David find so amazing in verse 4?
8. What does David say God does for the "son of man" in verse 4?
9. In the first line of verse 5, how does David say God has treated the "son of man?"
10. With what has God crowned the "son of man?"
11. According to the first line of verse 6, over what things has God given the "son of man" dominion, or control?
12. According to verses 7 and 8, what has God put under the feet of the "son of man?"

Summary and Application:

1. In what way do you think the cries of babies are able to silence God's enemies, those who would deny His creative power or His love?
2. Verse 3 tells us that the starry night was especially awesome to David. What part of God's natural world gives you the greatest sense of God's glory? What else do you learn about God from studying the natural world?
3. Verses 5-8 explain the glory and power God has given to the "son of man." How are these statements true of human beings in general? How are they especially true of Jesus?