

Follow the King

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Sermon Questions

Date: *February 19, 2023* | Scripture: *Mark 11:27-
12:12*

1. Read the passage from the sermon together. What do you find convicting? What do you find challenging? What do you find confusing?
2. How would you describe the relationship between Jesus and the religious authorities of his day?
3. The religious leaders of this passage abused their power. Where have you seen power abused?
4. How do we fall into the same error of the chief priests and scribes and elders in trying to assert our own authority against God? What parts of our life do we claim God has no say over?
5. How does Jesus confront the chief priests, scribes, and elders in their abuse of power?

Inward Grace in Action

In Isaiah 5, God tells a story of his vineyard which he ultimately destroys as it fails to produce good fruit. Isaiah explains this as a symbol: God will judge Israel's unfaithfulness and wickedness by destroying the kingdom and sending his people into exile.

Jesus borrows from this story and expands on it in his response to the chief priests, scribes, and elders. In it, he rebukes them for following in the footsteps of their ancestors who dismissed and killed the prophets. They had laid claim to God's vineyard and seized its fruit for themselves. Their rebellion will climax with their killing of the owner's own son. Yet, Jesus finishes his parable with a reference to Psalm 118. Rather than a psalm of destruction, Psalm 118 is a song of celebration and deliverance.

- Read both Isaiah 5:1-17 and Psalm 118. How do these two passages relate to each other?
- How do both of these passages find their fulfillment in the person and work of Christ?

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Here are some other ways you can meet with God throughout the week:

Reflect on these Scriptures:

- Joshua 24:1-28
- Psalm 118
- Isaiah 5:1-17
- Luke 20:1-18
- Romans 9:22-33
- 1 Peter 2:1-8

Serve: there are lots of opportunities to serve in our church family. [Click Here](#) to serve as a volunteer.

Pray for those affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, that they might know the mercy of God through the mobilization of his church and the comfort of his Spirit.

Reach out if you need assistance:

- Call our church office at 703.821.0800
- Request aid from our Deacons' Fund at deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org

- Remember back to last week's *Inward Grace in Action* section on Romans 11:22 and the kindness and severity of God. Where do you see God's kindness and severity in Jesus' telling of this parable?

ACTION: Spend some time reflecting on the things and people you've been given authority over (your body, your career, your family responsibilities, your free time, etc.) Ask God to reveal ways you've been misusing your authority and discuss with a trusted friend how you might commit to using it rightly.