

Small Group Study Notes

Mark 11:27-12:12

1. Jesus has just asserted his authority in clearing the temple. The question “who gave you authority to do this?” is a fair one. The clue to where his authority comes from lies in what happened at his baptism. What happened at his baptism that reveals where his authority comes from?
2. If someone were to ask you today why Jesus should be obeyed, what answer would you give?
3. Is it possible to acknowledge that Jesus has authority and yet still disobey him?
4. Does Jesus enforce his authority?
5. In the parable most of the parallels would have been pretty straight forward for Jews who knew their OT well. The owner = God (Isa 5:7). The vineyard = Israel (Isa 5:1-2). The servants = the prophets (Jer 7:25-26). And the bit they did not like the tenants = the Sanhedrin. So in what ways were the Sanhedrin acting like the tenant farmers?
6. What was the principle failing of the tenant farmers?
7. In what ways have we all to some extent acted like the tenant farmers?
8. The desire to have the owner’s son dead is the desire to have the vineyard to one’s self. It is the desire of the atheist to live in a world that is not owned by God. But if there is no God where does authority lie?
9. The tenants did not own the land on which they lived. What are some of the points concerning our possessions that can be drawn from this fact?

