

Questioning Authority
September 25, 2011

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who live and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

LOOK

As children we generally trust those who hold power over us, but as we grow up we begin to (wisely) question authority.

1. Whose authority have you questioned? Why?
2. Do you question God's authority? How does that play out in your life?

BOOK

[Matthew 21:23-32](#)

In this passage Jesus' authority is challenged by the Jewish authorities, shortly after the "temple tantrum" when Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers.

1. With what intention do the Jewish leaders question Jesus' authority? With what intention does Jesus' answer them?
2. Who are the characters in Jesus' parable? What point is Jesus trying to make?
3. Rewrite this parable for today. Who are the ones who talk but don't walk? How have we been guilty of this?

TOOK

Jesus does not prove his authority; he simply demonstrates it. Those who have the most power to lose are usually the last to submit to Jesus' authority.

1. Discuss how God's authority is different from human authority. When is it wise to question either authority? When is it foolish to question either authority?
2. What authority are we willing to give a new Rector? What factors will play into your trust or lack of trust?