



Introduction

After Jesus overturned the tables in the temple, the religious leaders confronted him about his authority. Jesus posed a threat to what religious leaders truly worshiped: power from the authority they held. The leaders used the people by manipulating their sense of religious devotion to posture themselves in a place of importance. On the other hand, Jesus used his authority to help people, by willingly laying down his life for them.

Observation/Interpretation

- In Mark 11:27-33 Jesus asks the religious leaders a question about John the baptist's authority. Why were they unable to answer Jesus?
- Mark 11:32 says that the religious leaders were, "afraid of the people." How does fear of people create a trap for us (see Proverbs 29:25)?

Application

- It would seem as if the one main thing the religious leaders loved more than anything (even God) was the power/authority they had. They feared losing the approval of the people because this was the functional way by which they maintained their power/authority. The irony is that they ended up losing the very thing they valued. What would have been a better way for the religious leaders to use their power/authority?
- What areas in your life has God given you power/authority? How can you be using your authority in a way that demonstrates God's love and kindness?

Prayer

Pray for ways to creatively use what authority you have to demonstrate God's love and kindness to to others.

Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.