

# ***Jesus - Supreme Authority***

## **Growth Group Study**

**16/6 2019 – John Malcolm**

**Bible Readings: Matthew 21:23–27 & Colossians 1:15–23**

The minister spoke of being slightly annoyed when stuck behind a slow-moving van using its hazard lights, but his attitude soon changed when he realised, hidden from view, the van was escorting a hearse.

Can you think of a time when you jumped to a conclusion without all the information needed?

Why is it important for us not only to look at the human nature of Jesus but to look beyond to his divine nature?

### **Read Luke 7:12–16 & John 11:33–35**

What do we learn about Jesus from these verses?

How did Jesus use his authority?

Can you think of other stories in the gospels that reveal how Jesus exercised his authority?

### **In 1887 Lord Acton wrote, *Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power tends to corrupt absolutely.***

What do you think this means? (Can you give examples?)

How does a misuse of authority undermine our trust in leaders?

Do you think there is more or less trust in authority figures in our day than in times past? (Discuss the reasons for your view)

What do you think the election of Volodymyr Zelensky (an actor/comedian) in the Ukraine says about the general trust people had in the political establishment?

How do you think modern cynicism/suspicion might influence how people might react to the authority of Jesus?

**Read Matthew 21:23-27**

Why do you think the elders in the temple questioned Jesus' authority?

What did Jesus' response reveal about the authority of the elders?

**Read Matthew 28:18, Ephesians 1:20–23 & Colossians 1.15-18 & 2:10**

What do these verses tell us about the extent of Jesus' authority?

How would you explain the breadth of Jesus' authority to a child?

Do you tend to find such authority challenging, comforting or both? (Explain your thinking)

**Read John 14.19, 15.22-24 & Romans 1:20**

To what extent do you think Jesus' authority is revealed or hidden in the New Testament?

What do you think keeps many people today from recognising and responding to Jesus' authority?

**Read 1 Corinthians 3.16, 6:19–20 & Ephesians 2.21-22**

What do these verses tell us about ourselves and about Jesus?

If we picture ourselves as a temple and Jesus comes to us do we:

- 1) act like the elders and question Jesus' authority?
- 2) Ignore his presence and carry on as normal?
- 3) Submit ourselves to his authority?
- 4) Other ...?

What difference does it make in your life when you allow Jesus to be Lord and exercise his authority over you?

Why can we as Christians be confident Jesus will use his authority wisely and lovingly?

**Read Revelation 12:10**

What does this tell us about Jesus and the future?

How might this encourage us and increase our confidence in Jesus?

**For personal reflection:**

As you look at the past week of your life – has the authority of Jesus been evident in how you have lived?

As you look at the week ahead – what could you do to allow Jesus' authority to influence and shape your life?