

Sermon Notes

Providence Community Church

8-30-15 Ken Carlton

Title: HOW JESUS ARGUES

Main Text: Mat 21:18-22

Description: This is not the first time Jesus has confronted the elites of His day on the question of His authority. The disingenuous mob of scribes and pharisees demanded a sign from Him in Chap 12:38-42. His answer was similar. Sufficient testimony to condemn them had reached its threshold long before their questioning. More evidence refuted them than the demonstration of the Word of God that moved Nineveh to repent or the queen of the South to marvel. Something greater than Jonah and Solomon was here and the self-important, self-righteous and self-serving refuse to admit it. Yet they are without excuse and so are we. I Cor 3:19 proclaims: “.. for the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,...” Mat 21 provides a perfect example of this truth in real time. Matthew Henry writes of this incident: “ While His adversaries thought by their power to have silenced *Him*, He by His wisdom silenced *them*.”

Heading: THE TEMPLE CONFRONTATION OF MAT 21 PRESENTS...

1. A CHALLENGE TO AUTHORITY (Contrast of interested parties)

- a. Champion of the meek (11:25-26)
- b. Challenge to religious AND civil authorities (18)

2. A FRIVOLOUS CHARGE (“Who do you think you are to receive worship and disrupt temple operations?”)

- ..charges were spurious because...* a. Fulfilled prophecy (1:22-23, 2:6, 3:3, 4:15-16, 12:18-21, 13:14-15, 13:35, 21:5,16)
- b. Teaching (7:28-29, Lk 2:41-51, Jn 3:2)
- c. Signs & Wonders (12:28-32, chap 14, 9:6-8, 21:14)

3. AN APOLOGETICS CASE IN POINT (How Jesus defends himself)

- a. Sufficient information (11:1-6, John 1:19-35)
- b. Tables turned (Rom 1:18-22)

4. AN APPLICABLE SCENERIO (Authority challenges of our day addressed)

- a. Academic & autocrat defied
- b. Gospel vs. our self-interest
- c. Repentance & children (18:1,19:13, 21:15)

Close: As the gospel unfolds, circumstances would seem to validate the scribes, priests & pharisees. Didn't they win the argument and deliver the last word at Jesus' crucifixion? NO... instead their condemnation proved the ultimate foil for Christ's greatest demonstration of authority: His payment for sin and decisive resurrection!

FAMILY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:
The meek	Prophecy	Teaching	Signs and wonders	No excuse	Repentance
Verses:	Verses:	Verses:	Verses:	Verses:	Verses:
21:8-11,15-16,11:25-26	4:15-16,12:18-21	Lk 2:41-51, Mt 7:28-29	9:6-8	Rom 1:18-22	19:13-15, 18:1-6

FURTHER STUDY: see 'Excerpts' posted weekly at providencecrosslake.com (this week: extended quotes)

NEXT WEEK: Heb 5:11-6:2 (communion Sunday)