

**A Question of Authority**

Matthew 21:18-32

Pastor Jim Miller

*Suppose a skydiver, at 10,000 feet announces,  
"This time, I'm going to try it without a parachute.  
It's too confining, too restrictive. I want to be free!"*

*We would conclude the person was insane.  
Yet, ever since the Garden of Eden,  
humanity has tried to cast off the restraint of the authority of God,  
to go its own way, without restriction.*

*Yet, without realizing it, Adam and Eve in an attempt  
to cast off the restrictions of God, merely exchanged  
the authority of God for the authority of the serpent.*

*Throughout life, we are constantly faced  
with the question of authority: "Who are you going to listen to?"  
This question of authority is illustrated in this passage.*

**The Demonstration of Jesus' Authority****(v18-22)****The Denial of Jesus' Authority****(v23-27)****The Description of Jesus' Authority****(v24-32)****Applications:**

1. Acknowledge the Authority of Jesus
2. Trust the Authority of Jesus
3. Share in the Authority of Jesus