

**ULC Sermon Study Resource**  
**The Gospel of Luke // Jesus Rules**  
**Pastor Gabe Kasper**  
**August 8th, 2021**

**Prayer:** Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

**Icebreaker:** If you could be one animal for a day, what would you be?

**Reading:** Luke 20:1-8, 41-47

**Outline:**

- I. The authority of Jesus (v. 1-4)
  - a. Throughout the gospels, Jesus consistently teaches as one who has authority.
  - b. The invitation of this passage is to reflect and examine our own tendencies to refuse to submit to the authority of Jesus.  
**Q: Why won't the chief priests answer Jesus' question?**
- II. The paradox of Jesus (v. 41-44)
  - a. The paradox of Jesus is that he uses his complete authority as all-powerful God not to crush us, but to empty himself so that we may be lifted up.
  - b. When our hearts grasp this truth, we then use whatever authority we have to lift up His name and other people.
- III. The protection of Jesus (v. 45-47)
  - a. Jesus offers a warning against religious hypocrisy and our own self-righteousness.
  - b. The grace of God, in which he sent Jesus to die and become our righteousness when we could do nothing to save ourselves, protects us from our hypocrisy.

**Reflection/Application Questions:**

- 1) Can you think of a time when it was particularly difficult to submit to the authority of Jesus? What did you do?
- 2) What makes submitting fully to the authority of Jesus so challenging?
- 3) When you reflect on the paradoxical way in which Jesus wields his complete authority, what's your reaction? How does it compare to the way we typically view and use our authority?
- 4) Can you think of a time when your self-righteousness got the better of you?
- 5) How can you lean into the protection of Jesus' grace when you recognize the temptation to hypocrisy and self-righteousness?

**Suggestions for further study:**

- Psalm 110 **Q: Where do you see Jesus prophesied in this text?**
- Philippians 2:1-11 **Q: How did Jesus use his authority, according to Paul?**
- 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 **Q: Is it easy to accept what God says in verse 8, that his "power is made perfect in weakness"?**

**Closing Prayer:** "Lord Jesus, we thank you that as Philippians 2 says, you did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped. You chose to empty yourself, to enter into our world and our sin, that we might receive grace upon grace. So Jesus, we pray that we would submit to your authority, that we would follow after you, and when self-righteousness creeps up inside of us we would return to your grace and see that it's only in you we have hope. It's only in you we are enough. It's in your name we pray, Jesus. Amen."