



KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING TEACHING SUPPLEMENT

18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1ST, 2023

BIBLE LESSON: MATTHEW 21:23-32



Read Matthew 21: 23-27 **The Authority of Jesus Challenged**

In the opening of today's Gospel reading from St. Matthew, the chief priests are questioning Jesus' authority and challenging Him on His teaching. It's funny for us to think of someone daring to challenge Jesus, and at the same time there are people who don't yet know Jesus and challenge any kind of authority but their own.

The Concordia Study Bible tells us that these chief priests were most likely Sadducees, a Jewish group of leaders who followed Old Testament law but did not get along with the scribes or Pharisees. They did not believe in Angels or the resurrection and therefore were not waiting for the Messiah. This provides some context for their attitude and demeanor and how their actions contributed to Jesus' arrest and trial. It also explains the disrespectful way they responded to Jesus, without confidence or any real answer, just a fear that they might cause a riot among the people.

Jesus demonstrates a godly way of responding to "haters" in that He doesn't engage in an argument or give these critics another reason to verbally attack Him. Instead, He turns their question back to them and makes them consider what other people might say about them and their foolish questions.

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LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE
OF CANADA

Read Matthew 21: 28-32 **The Parable of the Two Sons**

Here Jesus describes a situation that not only warns of the dangers of rejecting His authority but also the welcome that people will receive when they see the truth about Jesus and therefore about themselves. The Parable of the Two Sons gives assurance and encouragement to anyone who comes to believe the truth about Jesus, no matter where they come from or what they have done. The Parable also serves as a warning of the huge consequences that come with rejecting Him.



Prayer

Let us pray together: Dear Father in Heaven, thank you for sending Jesus to be our Saviour and to show us how to respond to people who disrespect us for believing in you. It can be hard to respect your authority, but with the Holy Spirit's help we can do so joyfully! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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