

# The Authority of Christ

## Matthew 21:23-46

Kingdom Come! (Gospel of Matthew Series)

Prepared by: Matthew S. Black

Sunday, November 8, 2015, 10:30am at Living Hope Church of Roselle, Illinois  
[livinghopechurch.net](http://livinghopechurch.net)

“God will have a church in the world, notwithstanding the unworthiness and opposition of many that abuse the privileges of it. The unbelief and hostility of man shall not make the Word of God of no effect.”

– Matthew Henry

### Announcements

1. Welcome to visitors
2. It's wonderful to have Julie Moffat back with us. Good to see Mike is well enough to be here. We've been praying for you.
3. If you are Hispanic or bi-lingual in Spanish, I would ask you to consider every once in a while, supporting our Spanish ministry. You are free to get up and go right now as God leads you. The Spanish ministry is in the Fellowship Hall, and they would be greatly encouraged by your presence with them! We are one body!
4. Small Group this week
5. No expositor's class today
6. Don't miss evening service at 5pm (Nov. 8) the Teen Challenge Choir will be ministering to us.
7. Christmas Play: Christmas season is upon us soon. We will be asking all the children and youth to practice for the Christmas play during the Sunday School hour beginning next Sunday morning at 9:30am. I hope all the children will participate in the program. Chara Reid is the director.
8. Next Saturday at 8am, all elders, pastors, deacons and ministry leaders are invited to the Annual Planning meeting.

*I*f you don't have a Bible, there should be one in the seat in front of you. Open your Bible to **Matthew 21**. We are continuing in our series in the book of Matthew entitled "Kingdom Come." This morning we are looking at a message entitled: "The Authority of Christ."

### Who Has Control of Your Life (Fighter Plane Illustration)

I have a question for you – who has control over your life?

When I was a young man of 14 I got a job sweeping floors at the Landmark Aviation for \$2.65 an hour.

One day, the boss, Mr. John Davis told me to come outside. His good friend had pulled up in a restored WWII fighter plane. Mr. Davis asked me “Do you want a ride?” The pilot took me high into the sky. He asked me do you want to “roll”? I had just seen the movie Top Gun, and of course I said YES!!! There I was flying upside down, suspended in the air above New Orleans.

He let me take the controls for a minute. What an experience! But I’m glad after a minute the pilot took the controls back. You see, I have no idea how to fly a plane! It would be disastrous!

And so it is with life. No human being can be trusted with guiding his or her own life. We are all broken, mortal human beings – sinners in need of guidance.

Aren’t you glad that Jesus Christ came to “seek and to save” the lost? All of us need to hear this message today. Are you trying to “pilot” your own life? That’s more dangerous than you could ever imagine.

Jesus must have control. That’s what we are going to talk about today. Jesus must have control of your life, or you are in for serious danger and tragedy.

He has the authority to guide you. He made you. You did not make yourself.

### **Jesus Has Total Authority Over Your Life**

Jesus has total authority over every one of our lives. Can I ask you a question? Do you live with Him as your pilot? Do you live with Him as your Master, King, Lord, and God?

You will never rest until He has total control over your life. You need to rest in Him dear friend. You need to trust in Him. You owe Him total control. He made you. He is your Maker and you will meet Him face to face sooner than you know it. He’s gentle. He’s good. He’s merciful. Submit your life to Him. Rest in Him

What is authority? It is “the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and command your obedience.” We see from Mt. 21:23 that Jesus has all authority over every soul.

### **Outline**

So this morning, because Jesus has total authority over you, it’s only logical that you should surrender your whole being to Him –

1. Surrender you **rights** to Him.
2. Surrender your **power** to Him.
3. Surrender your **life** to Him.

What will you get in return? Rest and peace.

### **Holy Week**

Our story takes place during the events of Holy Week in the life of Jesus.

- On Sunday, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling the prophecies of Zechariah, and Isaiah, and the Psalms. Kings come on a white horse to signify war, but Jesus came humbly on a donkey to signify great peace and victory! The victory is assured!

- On Monday, Jesus cleansed the Court of the Gentiles in the Temple courtyard and taught, and healed there. He brought peace to all whom He touched and taught there in the Temple.
- On Tuesday, Jesus teaches a lesson about the fig tree that he had cursed – which was an ominous sign to Israel that things were going to soon be drastically changing.
- So our story takes place on this Tuesday. And Jesus is teaching in the Temple. Thousands are listening to Jesus teach in the Temple. Mark 11:18 says, “the whole crowd was amazed by his teaching.” And Luke 11:48 – “all the people hung on his words.”

### Jesus Interrupted

And as Jesus is teaching about the Kingdom and preaching the good news of what He’s about to do, He is rudely interrupted. Who is Jesus? He’s the one who has all authority.

Because Jesus has all authority...

#### I. I surrender my **Rights** vs. 23-27

Matthew 21:23-27, “And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?’”<sup>24</sup> Jesus answered them, ‘I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things.’<sup>25</sup> The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?’” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’”<sup>26</sup> But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”<sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’ And he said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.’”

### Credentials / Ordination Papers

The chief priests and the elders wanted Jesus’ credentials. It was customary that the Sanhedrin would issue ordination papers. The Sanhedrin was the council of 70 men who ruled in the spirit of the 70 ordained by Moses.

And so the Sanhedrin (of which Saul of Tarsus was likely a member at this time) would ordain all the Rabbis of all the synagogues throughout the Land of Israel. They had to prove themselves by teaching before the Sanhedrin, and by being examined for sound doctrine, much like ordination councils today.

Of course Jesus did not have ordination papers. He didn’t need them. Yet He had cleared out that massive area called the Court of the Gentiles. Twenty-five acres of magnificent space with massive pillars and many porticos and porches and open areas that would carry the voice of the Son of God as He taught the thousands that surrounded Him on this Tuesday of Holy Week.

So the chief priests, including Caiaphas and Annas who ruled as kind of “co-High Priests” together, as well as the elders of Israel, and probably the Captain of the Temple, who was like the Assistant High Priest – a very powerful position – these interrupted Jesus.

Matthew 21:23, “And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?’”

### Jesus Was Doing Good by Turning the Tables

First, Jesus had every right to turn the Tables over in the Temple. Why did He do it? He's God, and He wanted to bring peace and rest to the people. The system that was in the Temple was **destroying** and robbing the people. Jesus wanted to **heal** the people, **teach** the people, and bring **peace** to the people!

### What Right Do You Have to Interrupt Jesus?

They wanted to know what right Jesus had to cleanse the Temple. The Temple by its appearance looked like it was a center of worship. It was busy. There were prayers and sacrifices and teaching going on. It looked on the good on the outside, like a hub of godly and pious religious activity. But on the inside, it was a den of thieves. The chief priests were in it for the money. Jesus makes a whip and drives the money changers out!

What right does He have to interrupt the priests and the elders from going forward in their business?

I have a question for us today: what right do any of us have to interrupt Jesus.

### Jesus Wants to Cleanse Your Temple

Jesus is busy cleansing the Temple so He can give you touch your diseases and your sin and heal you, and **teach** you, and bring **peace** and **rest**. What right do I have or you have to interrupt Jesus? I don't want to interrupt Jesus!

### Taking Off Their Masks

Jesus has an exchange with the chief priests and elders in which He is essentially taking off their masks and giving them a mirror. He's asking a question so that they realize what they are doing by resisting His authority. He shows them what they are doing.

### Was John from Heaven or Earth or Worse?

He asks a question that really gets to the point. He links Himself with John the Baptist, and He basically asks, "Was John from heaven or earth or worse?" Is John the Baptist the real deal, or is he a phony? Is He a prophet of God or of the devil?

Jesus is getting to the point. He's picking up a mirror and showing them what their reckless conclusions.

Jesus is making the chief priests and leaders look into the mirror. Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Triune God is walking on the earth, and they don't recognize His authority. He deserves worship. He deserves their lives. "He came unto His own and His own received Him not!"

They won't say it, but they don't think Jesus is from heaven. They think He's from hell.

Listen to the exchange in **Matthew 21:24-27**, "Jesus answered them, 'I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things.'"<sup>25</sup> The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'"<sup>26</sup> But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet."<sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.'"

## Brood of Vipers

The leaders of Israel rejected the baptism of John. Remember what John the Baptist called them: “You brood of vipers!” They were a bunch of snakes!

## John Reveals Jesus as the Messianic Redeemer King!

In a real sense the chief priests and elders did not want to deeply consider John the Baptist’s claims of Christ. John revealed that Christ was prophet, priest and king! John preached Jesus as:

- Prophet: **Jn. 4:34**, “For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.”
- Priest: **Jn. 1:29**, “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”
- King: **Mt. 3:16-17**, “And when Jesus was baptized [by John the Baptist], immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;<sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.””

John reveals Jesus as **Prophet**, for Jesus speaks the “words of God.”

John reveals Jesus as **Priest**, and declares Him to be the “Lamb of God.”

John reveals Jesus as **King**, and baptizes Him, anointing Him as the “Beloved Son of God,” the heir of David’s throne (Psa.2) with whom the Father is “well pleased” (Isa. 53).

In other words, as the **Word**, He’s the Prophet. As the **Lamb**, He’s the Priest. And as the **Son** of God, He’s the heir and King of kings!

Jesus is the Messianic Redeemer: Prophet, Priest, and King!

## Leaders of Israel Did Not Acknowledge His Authority

Yet they did not recognize Him. They would not acknowledge His authority. **Here is God Almighty, robed in human flesh**, and they stubbornly denied that He had any claim or right to command them in any way.

In fact, they refuse to call Jesus Lord! They’d rather call Jesus a liar or a lunatic. That reminds me of the words of C. S. Lewis.

## C. S. Lewis Liar, Lunatic, or Lord Quote

C. S. Lewis says, Someone might say something foolish, like “I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — ...or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man... is the Son of God, or else a madman or something [far] worse. You can shut him up for a [lunatic], you can spit at him [and pronounce Him a liar] or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about [Jesus Christ] being [merely] a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

## What Right Do We Have to Interrupt Jesus?

So the leaders of Israel are asking: “What right, what authority do you have to interrupt our business? How dare you disrupt our lives!”

To which I would say, do you know who Jesus is? According to John He is the Prophet, Priest and King. He's the Messianic Redeemer. He's your substitute. The Judge has taken off His robe of justice and meted out your justice and penalty on Himself.

### **Jesus Has the Right to Turn the Tables Over in Our Lives**

What right do you have to interrupt Him? Jesus has every right to interrupt you!

- Jesus had every right to turn the Tables over in the Court of the Gentiles. He has every right to turn the Tables of your life over. He turned the tables of the money changers and the chief priests. They lost their business. They wanted to know what right did Jesus have in interrupting their business? What right do you and I have if Jesus wants to turn the Tables of our lives over for His glory? He knows best!
- Some of you, you are upset that Jesus has interrupted your ideal vision of **children and family**. Perhaps Jesus you are dealing with a sickness or disease in a child or in yourself or your spouse. Perhaps you are hurting because **family life** is completely different than what you expected. Some of you are truly suffering because you have no children. Others, you are upset because you have discovered children bring heart ache sometimes. Trust Jesus in your heart ache. It may seem like He's just turned over your Temple, but He has something good in mind for you.
- Some of you Jesus has turned the Tables of your **job** over. It's hard. It's difficult. You are not working at the job you thought you would. Or perhaps you're not working at all! It's not worked out as you planned. No, but it's working exactly as Jesus planned. **No tables turned over in your life are in vain!**
- Others of you Jesus has turned the Tables of your **mental stability**. You are exhausted. You are weak. You are crying a lot. You are hurting inside. This is not what you envisioned for the Christian life. Listen, your pain is not forever. Jesus is doing something amazing in your life, but you don't know it. Acknowledge His right to allow pain in your life. He will never waste your pain. He has a purpose for it. Endure through this trial. "Count it all joy" in this temptation for "the testing of your faith works perseverance" (James 1:2-3). The testing of your faith makes you strong and mature in Christ. Don't be discouraged. God is growing you!
- Don't interrupt Jesus by **hardening your heart** to Him. Come to Him! Trust Him! He's doing something good in your life.
- Call out to Him! **Pray the Psalms** when you are hurting. He understands your pain. **Hebrews 5:7**, "During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission" (NIV).

### **Don't Be Undecided / Paralyzed / Silent**

The chief priests and elders would not admit that John was from heaven, and they would not be honest about their real feelings about John and Jesus (that they were merely of men, or worse, from hell).

**Matthew 21:27**, “So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

What about you, will you remain silent? Will you be paralyzed by your fear or your pride? Stop being undecided. If you are not willing to reject Jesus, then trust Him completely today. Don't be silent or paralyzed like the chief priests.

If Jesus is God, He has every right to turn the Tables over in your life! **Celebrate** the reasons He does that. He wants to bring you **peace** and **healing**!

Not only should I surrender my rights and let Jesus turn the tables of my heart and life over so he can bring me peace...

Because Jesus has all authority...

### **II. I surrender my Power vs. 28-32**

I learned long time ago I cannot change myself. None of you can change me unless you are an instrument of Jesus. Prayer does more to change us than any other thing.

But it's interesting who comes under Jesus' authority. It's those who **realize they have no power to change themselves**.

**Matthew 21:28-32**, “What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’<sup>29</sup> And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he **changed his mind** [HE REPENTED] and went.”

<sup>30</sup> And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. <sup>31</sup> Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.”

Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.<sup>32</sup> For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.”

### **A Parable: The Vineyard, a Very Common Picture**

Jesus tells a parable to distinguish who His true followers are. It is the “Parable of the two sons.” This picture presented was the most common in Israel. There were often two kinds of vineyards – the family business where all the kids took part. Then there was the richer family, where they hired servants and tenants to tend it.

This parable would have been such a common situation for Jesus' hearers. A vineyard was a way to sustain oneself.

Only those who understand their own depravity and the desperate need for radical grace (like prostitutes and tax-gatherers) will see the preciousness of Christ's authority. The sad thing is that the religious were in just as great need for radical grace, but were blinded by self-righteousness.

### **The Second Son, Confident in His Own Power**

The second son is representative of the Pharisees, and the legalists. Some of us may be like them. We all have a little legalist in us. We are like those legalists. The Lord calls us to His vineyard, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” We are so confident in our own power in verse 30, “I go, sir, but did not go.”

It is our desire to go and work in the vineyard. His vineyard is His people. His church. So many go in their own strength, through legalistic means, but they never actually do anything for the kingdom.

They are in the family, but they never go out to the field.

### **Jesus Indicts His Hearers**

Jesus indicts his hearers in **verse 31**, “Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.”

There were many who worked in the Temple, ran the Temple, ran the sacrifices, sold the animals, yet they never did the true work of the kingdom.

### **Who Works in the Vineyard?**

Who enters and does the work of the Kingdom? Who actually works in God’s vineyard? Who are the true sons and daughters of God? Not the Pharisees! Not the chief priests. They try to enter with their own strength.

### **Tax Collectors and Prostitutes Enter First**

Now this is shocking. Who is it that enters the Kingdom? Who becomes a true son or daughter and works in the vineyard of God?

Look at **verse 31b-32**, “Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.’<sup>32</sup> For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.”

### **Those Who Had No Power**

Tax collectors and sinners had no power to change themselves. They were the helpless and forsaken people of Israel. They were the outsiders and the disenfranchised. They were the homeless and the whores. There was no possible way they were entering in to the Kingdom unless someone carried them.

They came to John’s baptism with JOY! They realized that repentance means REST in Christ. REST in His righteousness and not in my own righteousness.

### **How to Get the Power to Come to Christ**

Perhaps you don’t know how to get that power to come to Christ. The power to come to Christ is divine. It is the power of love.

Love overcomes legalism every time. Legalism gives us barely enough power to breath, but those who have the power of love in Christ can sprint even when they are powerless.



## Come Unto Me

**Matthew 11:28-30**, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light”

The power is in resting in Jesus

## Who Needs Jesus?

This is so amazing what we learn here.

- The **prostitutes** need Jesus. Perhaps you are struggling with uncleanness and pornography this morning. Perhaps you are struggling with discontentment in your marriage. You need Christ. You need to rest in Christ.
- The **tax-gatherers** and sinners need Jesus. Those who steal. Perhaps you struggle with drinking alcohol. Perhaps it's bad language. You wouldn't admit it, but God knows your struggles. There is rest in Jesus.

You say, how do I get that rest? **Luke 7:47** gives us the answer: “He who is forgiven much loves much, but he who is forgiven little, loves little.” Love comes when you realize you are forgiven. Your offense against God is horrific. **Until you can feel the weight of your sin and receive forgiveness and have absolute faith that God has forgiven you, you will not know the love warm and rise in your heart.**

- But you know who desperately needs the radical grace of Jesus? Those who are **legalists**. Those who are self-righteous. There is a little legalist in each of us. We are never going to change ourselves. Change comes by getting touched by God. There is more done in five seconds with God than all the programs to try to change us. We've got to get humbled before God. We've got to trust God's promises. That's where change comes.

## Self-Righteousness is Exhausting

The self-righteous have never changed themselves. Legalism is exhausting. We have not saved ourselves, and we certainly cannot sanctify ourselves. Our self-righteousness according to Isaiah is what? “filthy rags”!

## A Year of Dread in Spain

When I was in Spain, it took me a year to re-learn the Gospel of God's grace. I became a bit proud, a bit Pharisaical and self-righteous about my “doctrines of grace.” I allowed my systematic theology to replace the Savior.

You know what happened? I felt damned. I faithfully read my Bible, but the only verses that spoke to me were those verses of judgment. I felt like hell was going to swallow me up.

## Out of the Horrible Pit

But God brought me up out of that horrible pit. He set my feet on the Rock of His grace. I got reacquainted with Jesus who is the merciful Savior and reveals the “God of all grace.”

Since Jesus has all authority over your soul, you should find rest in Him.

Because Jesus has all authority...

### III. I surrender my **Life**, vs. 33-46

Finally, we hear a shocking Parable.

**Matthew 21:33-34**, “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country.<sup>34</sup> When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit.”

All this would be normal. A rich land owner has tenants harvesting his vineyard. Obviously He isn't so concerned for agriculture. He's talking about giving the Kingdom to Israel. The people of Israel were the tenants.

#### The Shocking Parable

**Matthew 21:35-41**, “And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.<sup>36</sup> Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them.<sup>37</sup> Finally he sent his Son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my Son.’<sup>38</sup> But when the tenants saw the Son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’<sup>39</sup> And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.<sup>40</sup> When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”<sup>41</sup> They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

#### Extravagant Grace

(Parable of the wicked tenants) - Those who reject the extravagant grace of the Son of God will lose their portion. All must find rest in Christ - prostitutes, thieves, and yes, even and perhaps especially... the religious must find rest in Christ. For if we do not find rest in Christ, we will not rest. We all must repent and see that all are so helpless that we are in desperate need of the extravagant grace of the Son of God. If we reject His authority over our lives, there is no hope. And what does Christ do with His authority? He uses it to give His own life to wretched, hateful, selfish sinners. Praise to Jesus for His authority!

#### A Common Site

In New Testament times, the hillsides of Palestine were covered with grape vineyards, which were a mainstay of the economy. It was not unusual for a wealthy man to buy a piece of land and develop it for a **vineyard**. He would first **put a wall** of stone or a hedge of briars **around it** to protect it from wild animals and thieves. He would then make a **wine press**, sometimes having to cut it out of bedrock. In the wide, shallow, upper basin, the grapes would be squeezed, and the juice would run down through a trough into a lower basin. From there the grape juice would be poured into wineskins or clay jars for storage. Often the owner would build a **tower**, which would be used as a lookout post against marauders, as shelter for the workers, and as a storage place for seed and implements.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1985). *Matthew* (Mt 21:33). Chicago: Moody Press.

## The Twist

But now comes the twist. Matthew 21:35-36, “And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.”<sup>36</sup> Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them.”

Now this is unusual. When the Master sends someone to collect his profits, they rip that person to shreds – they tie him down and beat him – they flagellate his back. They have no right to do that. They don’t own that vineyard!

What is Jesus doing? He’s taking this ordinary story and making a comparison – an illustration.

**BEATING:** In the story, the tenants are not just stingy, but reckless. They make mince meat out of the servant’s back.

**KILLING:** Second, they “killed another.” We don’t know what happened, but perhaps it was sudden.

**STONING:** Finally, he sent another servant who was stoned.

## They Don’t Know Their Own Songs (vs. 42ff)

Jesus says, Don’t you understand the festal songs you sing? They had been singing “Hosanna to the Son of David!” from Psalm 118:25. Awaiting the prophecy that the messianic Redeemer of Israel would be riding on a donkey, humble. That He would save them to the uttermost, “in the highest” form and fashion.

Jesus now gives insight from **Psalm 118:22-23** – this messianic Redeemer would first be rejected. **Matthew 21:42**, “Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord's doing,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

The next verse is Psalm 118:24, “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

This was the day that the Messiah walked into the Temple and taught them. This is the day of redemption. Jesus is predicting His own death. It’s Tuesday. In two days He’ll be arrested, and on Friday, He’ll be hanging on a Cross.

## Jesus Prophesies His Resurrection

Jesus through His rejection on the Cross, would be raised three days later and become the chief cornerstone! Peter reiterated the same truth in his first letter: “For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”<sup>7</sup> So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” (1 Pet. 2:6–8).

## Conclusion

Perhaps today you are trying to be the pilot of your own life. You’re trying to save yourself. You are trying to sanctify yourself.

When I was in the fighter plane. I got the opportunity to fly it for 30 seconds. But what if I killed the pilot and demanded to fly it myself?

Disaster! Crash!

We are all going to face God. Let’s face Him in grace and not in legalism.