

SMALL GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Watch the video summary of the **August 10, 2014 Sermon** (3.5 minutes), "The Question of Authority."
Please read the sermon passage (Luke 20:1-8) together out loud.

Small Group Questions (Luke 20:1-8)

Sermon Outline:

IN LIGHT OF HIS ULTIMATE AUTHORITY . . .

1. **Note the gospel that Christ presents** (1a)
 - a. Jesus was "gospel" daily--and allowing that gospel to be divisive.
 - b. The gospel is the entire body of God's redemptive work from creation to today, and it centers on the atonement that Christ provided through his death and resurrection.
2. **Note the skepticism that Christ faces** (1b-2)
 - a. Those in "religious authority" want to know, "says who?"
 - b. Jesus is the authority.
3. **Note the question that Christ asks** (3-4)
 - a. They received John, but they rejected John's testimony about Jesus.
 - b. They were happy to live with inconsistencies as long as their authority was respected.
4. **Note the dilemma Christ produces** (5-7)
 - a. Our sincere friends cannot both receive nice things about Jesus
 - b. AND reject his authority at the same time.
5. **Note the response Christ gives** (8)
 - a. Sometimes religious curiosity is not real.
 - b. Christ refused to answer their questions.

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Do you "gospel" regularly. Are you clear? Are you okay with being divisive?
2. Based on #2, above: Do your friends see that you happily submit yourself to God's authority in Christ? How can you grow in this area?
3. Based on #3, above: Jesus pointed out inconsistencies in the Pharisees logic (they received John but rejected his testimony about Jesus (that he was the only "Lamb of God")). Do you point out inconsistencies in your friend's logic? Do you challenge faulty thinking? Why or why not?
4. Based on #4, above: Jesus was left alone to confront his opponents. His disciples seem to have left him. Have you ever felt abandoned when it was time to "gospel"? How did you handle it?
5. Based on #5, above: Jesus let the gospel be divisive, then he asked hard questions and then he refused to politely continue in conversation. When is it time to pull the plug on conversations with people who are too prideful to listen to Jesus?