

★ They Marveled at His Answer ★

1st - 3rd Grade
Lesson 3

The Wisdom of Christ

Everywhere Jesus went, there was a crowd around Him. The crowd watched Him heal people. They listened to His teaching. But the priests, the scribes, and the rulers of the synagogue hated Him. They stood in the synagogue every week and taught God's Word. But they did not really know God. If they had known Him, they would have believed in Jesus.

Asked About His Authority

One day when Jesus was in the synagogue teaching the people, the rulers stopped Him and asked Him a question: "By what authority doest thou these things? And who gave thee this authority?" (Matthew 21:23) They wanted to know what right Jesus had to teach in the synagogue.

If they had really loved God, they would have known that Jesus is His Son. The common people knew that Jesus was different from the other teachers. They said Jesus "taught them as one having authority, not as the scribes" (Matthew 7:29).

Jesus knew what the rulers were thinking. He knew they wanted to trick Him into saying something wrong. Instead, Jesus answered their question with a question. If they gave the wrong answer, the people would be angry with them. So they wouldn't answer Jesus.

Angered About His Parable

So, Jesus told them a story. It was about a man who had a vineyard—a place where grapes are grown. This story showed the priests, the scribes, and the rulers how wicked they were. It told them Who Jesus is. The rulers knew the story was about them. And they didn't like it. It made them look like sinful men. They were, of course; but they didn't like Jesus telling them that. We can read this story in Matthew 21:33-38. It made the rulers so angry that they wanted to kill Jesus.

Amazed About His Answer

They had to be careful what they did because the people believed in Jesus. So they sent spies to watch Jesus. They wanted to catch Him saying something or doing something that was against the law.

They talked it over and thought up a question that would trick Jesus. There was no way, they thought, that Jesus could give the right answer to this question.

So they went to Jesus. First, they said some nice things about Him. In Luke chapter 20, they told Jesus they knew He spoke and taught right things. They knew He treated everyone the same. They knew He taught the true way of God.

Of course, they were just trying to trick Jesus, so they asked a trick question: “Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar, or no?” (Luke 20:22). Tribute is a tax or bribe. Jesus asked for a coin and asked whose picture was on it. Someone told Him it was Caesar’s picture. He said,

Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s.

—Matthew 22:21

What Jesus said was that we should obey the law. If the law says we have to pay a tax, then we should pay it. We should also obey God’s Word about giving our tithes and offerings.

The men were shocked. They thought they could trick Jesus. But His answer was true and wise. So they “left him and went their way” (Matthew 22:22).

Jesus always knew the right answer. Don’t you wish you could always say the right thing? You can if you will just ask for wisdom.

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

—James 1:5

Proverbs 9:10 tells us, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”

God also tells us we should humble ourselves. That means to remember that we are sinners. Remember how great God is.

When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.

—Proverbs 11:2

Jesus has all wisdom. He will give you His wisdom if you will humble yourself and ask Him for it.

Teacher’s Notes
