



Our hope is that you were challenged by Sunday's message and would desire to take the study a little deeper. Whether for personal study, family study, or for a Home Group gathering, use this study to go deeper.

### Open

**March 18, 2018**

*No one has taken [My life] away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.—John 10:18*

Throughout the various scenes of Holy Week, there is a second, recurring issue. **Authority.** It is a regular topic of conversation between Jesus, His disciples, and the religious leaders, whose phony rule is being exposed through Jesus' teaching and ministry during Holy Week.

### Main Point

Leading up to His crucifixion, Jesus was in total control. Prophecy was being fulfilled and authority was shifting from false shepherds (religious leaders) to the Good Shepherd. His authority is our power today.

### Read

Matthew 21:18-27; 28:18-20; John 10:11-18

### Discuss

- What is Jesus' message to His disciples concerning the fig tree? What does the immediate impact of Jesus' judgment (v. 20; "at once") mean?
- What is the connection between the scene with the fig tree and the disciples, and the next scene with the religious leaders?
- The chief priests and elders were not involved in the scene with the fig tree. When Jesus was last in the temple before this passage, what happened? How does that relate to their questions for Jesus now?
- Why did Jesus not simply answer their question about Who gave Him the authority?
- This passage only begins what will be chapters and many scenes in Matthew of contentious debates between Jesus and the various factions of Israel's leaders (Pharisees, Sadducees, chief priests, elders, etc.). How does this affect Jesus' post-resurrection, Great Commission (28:18-20; see also John 10)?



**Sermon Notes**



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