



WORLD CHANGER • Part 5

## CHALLENGING AUTHORITY AND ALLEGIANCES

### A TEACHER WITH AUTHORITY

**Matthew 7:28-29**

<sup>28</sup> When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> because **he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.**

### QUESTIONING AUTHORITY

**Luke 20:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> One day as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple courts and proclaiming the good news, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, together with the elders, came up to him. <sup>2</sup> **“Tell us by what authority you are doing these things,”** they said. **“Who gave you this authority?”**

### A STORY ABOUT AUTHORITY

**Luke 20:9-19**

<sup>17</sup> Jesus looked directly at them and asked, “Then what is the meaning of that which is written: **‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’?** <sup>18</sup> Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.” <sup>19</sup> The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately, because **they knew he had spoken this parable against them.** But they were afraid of the people.

### A TRAP ABOUT AUTHORITY

**Luke 20:20-26**

<sup>25</sup> He said to them, **“Then give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”**

### CLAIMS ABOUT AUTHORITY

**Matthew 28:18**

<sup>18</sup> **All authority in heaven and on earth** has been given to me...

### A WARNING ABOUT AUTHORITY

**John 19:9-11**

<sup>11</sup> Jesus answered, **“You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.**

### AN APPEAL TO AUTHORITY

**Acts 4:18-20**

<sup>18</sup> Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup> But Peter and John replied, **“Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges!** <sup>20</sup> As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

### DECLARATIONS OF AUTHORITY

**Ephesians 1:3**

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of **our Lord Jesus Christ**, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

**John Ortberg, from *Who Is This Man?***

Ideas like individual rights, limited sphere of government, separation of the freedom of worship from the power of the state, and freedom of conscience would all be a part of reflecting on what Jesus meant when he talked about “that which belongs to Caesar.” It was this connection that moved John Quincy Adams to say, “The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity.” It is not coincidental that the liberty bell in Philadelphia quotes from the prophetic passages that Jesus would cite at the beginning of his own ministry: the Year of Jubilee instruction to proclaim liberty throughout the land. Quaker William Penn and Baptist Roger Williams pioneered political work to embed freedom of religious conscience in law. The influence of Jesus helped create a state where people could choose not to follow Jesus.