

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE
For the Week of October 26, 2014

SERMON: “Authority Challenge”

TEXT: Mark 11:27-33

PREACHER: Matt Ryman

1. Why were the religious leaders trying to discredit Jesus in this story?
2. What were “these things” the religious leaders were speaking of in v28? Why did they feel the need to defend their own authority?
3. Explain in your own words the difference between holiness and righteousness. Why is it ironic whenever we try to defend our own righteousness?
4. In vv29-32, the Jewish religious leaders find themselves in a pickle. Why didn't they want to admit the truth that the baptism of John was from heaven?
5. In his sermon, Pastor Matt quoted J. C. Ryle (from his book *Holiness*), “Holiness is happiness.” Do you agree that holiness is the path to happiness? Why or why not?
6. How can UPC be a church that encourages people to grow in holiness without becoming a legalistic church?
7. Which do you struggle with more: pride or fear?
8. What is significant about the fact that v27 marks the third time Jesus has entered Jerusalem and predicted his sufferings and death.
9. How do you typically respond when you are criticized? How can this passage of Scripture help you respond humbly and confidently?