

Welcome to Church!

We are glad you chose to join us today to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We hope that your stay has been both meaningful and memorable.

Here are some activities going on with us!

☐ How can we pray for you?

Inviting you to join our **Prayer Meeting, Tuesdays at 7PM**. You may send your **prayer requests** and **praise reports** by text (0912 130 6148), by writing them on the prayer cards provided, or by sending us a private message on our Facebook page.

☐ Discover life with our Small Groups.

Looking for deeper connections and a closer walk with God? Our **small groups** are where we cultivate meaningful relationships and grow in faith together. Want to join? Visit our Information Booth after the service to find the perfect group for you!

☐ Stay for fellowship and refreshments.

Stick around after the service for **coffee** and **connection**! It's the perfect chance to meet some friendly faces, learn more about our small groups, our ministries, and discover all that our church has to offer. We'd love to see you there!

☐ Free Blood Pressure & Sugar Check-up

Encouraging those who wish to monitor their **Blood Pressure & Blood Sugar** levels to avail of our free check-up, happening **every after Sunday service**!

Schedules for Services:

English Service:

Morning 10:00 AM
Afternoon 01:00 PM

Cebuano Service:

Afternoon 04:00 PM

**2nd Floor,
Northgate Center.**
across Gaisano Country Mall
Banilad, Cebu City.

ways to give TITHES and LOVE GIFTS

BPI Checking
Acct no: 0421-0041-16

Paypal
@livingwordnra

GCash Account
0912-130-6148

EMAIL ADDRESS
livingwordnra@gmail.com

FACEBOOK PAGE
facebook.com/lwnra

WEBSITE
www.livingwordnra.com

OFFICE TELEPHONE
(032) 517 5991

TEXT ONLY NUMBER
(63) 912 130 6148

**GET IN TOUCH
WITH US!**

Living Word NRA
Worship God. Advance His Kingdom.

THE QUESTION OF AUTHORITY

The Jerusalem Ministry: The King Confronts Empty Religion (series)
Ptr Nic Sy | November 30, 2025 | Mark 11:27-33



SERMON NOTES

It's not whether you'll live under authority. The question is which authority do you choose?

I. THE CHALLENGE: WHEN AUTHORITY IS THREATENED

Jesus was such a threat that he united enemies.

When someone with real authority shows up, people with pretend authority panic.

The question "By what authority?" is only asked by people who don't want to submit to the authority.

When Jesus's real authority confronts our assumed authority over our own lives, we have a choice: submit or challenge.

II. THE COUNTER: WHEN WISDOM EXPOSES TREACHERY

Integrity dies when you care more about managing your image than pursuing truth.

Sometimes the most powerful thing you can do is let people reveal themselves.

Following Jesus isn't intellectually difficult. It's just expensive. It costs us our autonomy. Our pride. Our carefully constructed image. Our right to do whatever we want.

III. THE CLAIM: AUTHORITY THAT CANNOT BE DENIED

Jesus's authority doesn't increase when we acknowledge it, and it doesn't decrease when we deny it.

Jesus is Lord whether you call him Lord or not.

We are a church that seeks to bring glory to God, to build the local church through discipleship and to fulfill the Great Commission.

OUR MISSION

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE
For the week of December 1-7, 2025
"THE QUESTION OF AUTHORITY"

Getting Started

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Tell about a time you had to give a very careful answer because you knew any response would get you in trouble or would be misinterpreted. What was the situation?

Group Discussion

Read Mark 11:27-33.

1. Why do you think the chief priests, scribes, and elders approached Jesus together instead of separately? What does their question "By what authority are you doing these things?" reveal about what was really bothering them? If you had been in the crowd watching this confrontation, what do you think would have been going through your mind?
2. Why was Jesus' reply in verses 29-30 such a brilliant response to their trap? How does Jesus' question expose what was really in their hearts? When has God asked you a question (through Scripture, a sermon, or conviction) that revealed what was really going on inside you?
3. The leaders discuss their answer privately before responding. What does their calculation process tell us about their priorities? The passage says they "feared the people." How does fear of what others think keep us from being honest about what we know is true? Can you think of a time when you said something equivalent to "I don't know," though you actually did know but you just weren't ready to act on it?
4. The leaders' final answer, "We do not know," is clearly evasive. Why do you think they chose that response, and how does fear of consequences shape their decision? How can fear (e.g. fear of change, fear of loss, fear of people, etc.) affect our willingness to obey God? What is one area where fear might be keeping you from honesty or obedience?

5. The leaders reject Jesus' authority not because they lacked evidence but because surrender would cost them something. What do you think they feared losing most? How does the cost of following Jesus sometimes tempt us to protect ourselves instead of surrender? Which part of following Jesus feels most costly to you right now?

6. The religious leaders' refusal to answer Jesus' question reveals a disconnect between their public role and private conviction. Where do you see similar tensions in your own life, between what you profess and what you truly believe or live out? How does the gospel address the gap between our outward actions and inward motives?

Next Steps

It's not whether you'll live under authority. The question is which authority do you choose?

- **Question Humbly:** I will pause before reacting critically and instead ask God to reveal any pride, fear, or hidden motives behind my doubts or questions.
- **Choose Truth:** When faced with a hard choice between looking good and doing what's right, I'll choose honesty even if it costs me approval or comfort.
- **Submit Fully:** I'll identify one area where I've been resisting Jesus' authority and take concrete steps to align my actions with his Lordship.
- **Speak Boldly:** I'll look for opportunities to gently but clearly share truth.

Closing the Session

Close the session by taking the time to *pray for one another*. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for Jesus to expose anything that keeps you from following him fully.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

December 1	Mark 11:27-33
December 2	Psalms 24:1-10
December 3	Numbers 16:1-11
December 4	Luke 18:9-14
December 5	Acts 17:10-15
December 6	Psalms 85:1-13
December 7	Romans 12:1-3

