

# DYING TO LIVE

7/21/2024 | Pastor Reggie Robinson

**WARM UP QUESTION:** What/who do you allow to speak into your life and what/who do you consider to be your final authority?

**READ:** Mark 12:1-9 (NIV)

**FOCUS:** Following Christ means we accept His authority and respond by bearing fruit.

**OBSERVE:**

- Authority is what guides and leads us, like a person or thing that helps us make decisions and rules over us. Whatever we listen to as our authority shapes how we see ourselves. It's important to have the right authority guiding us (Mark 12:1-9).
- Authority is delegated or primary (Romans 13:1-7). Authority gives someone or something the right, power or ability to do something. God alone is the ultimate authority and everything is subject to Him. The miracles Jesus performs proves He is the Son God sent and was given the authority to rule the earth.
- Jesus revealed the intentions of the Jewish leaders to rule Israel without the Messiah. They did not want to bow down to His authority. He was rejected. The Jewish leaders wanted to remain in control of their lives (Mark 12:7-8).
- We must be careful to not engage people who are not interested in walking in God's truth but only in advancing their own agendas.
- We are to honor those in authority, for there is no authority except what God has established. Whoever rebels against the authority God establishes brings judgment against themselves (Romans 13:1-2).

**REFLECT:**

- Do you allow any of the following to determine who or what becomes the subject of authority in your life?
  - The influence and/or praises of others
  - Whether or not people get upset or disrupted with your decision making
  - How others have previously directed you

**TAKE ACTION:** Engage in daily devotions to God, learn more about Him, bear fruit through following the discipleship path, use your time and gifts by serving our church and community and give your treasure to advance God's Kingdom.

**PRAY:** *Lord, We ask that You would give us the courage to bring every area of our lives under Your Lordship. Help us to know what it means to follow You and to walk under Your authority. Help us to serve Your purposes as we lead and serve. Help us to be more like You. Amen.*