

LESSON 6.4: AUTHORITY

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 19:1-12

SUMMARY:

People were always astounded by Jesus' teachings. In this passage, the Pharisees try to test Jesus by asking Him questions about divorce and He responds by citing the Old Testament. Likewise, when Satan tested Him in the wilderness, He responded to each of the temptations with Scripture (Matthew 4:1-11). Many times when Jesus was questioned, either by His disciples or the Pharisees, He asked why they didn't already know the answer from the Old Testament (Matthew 12:3, 22:31). Jesus continually reaffirmed the power and authority of the Old Testament.

Today the entire Bible carries this same authority *for us*. We are to conform our entire lives to biblical teaching.

Jesus held the Old Testament in high regard and affirmed the entire Old Testament as Scripture from God containing the utmost authority. He also selected disciples who would continue His message and go on to write the New Testament. These messengers included Paul, who would affirm that the entire Bible comes from God in 2 Timothy 3:16.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Talk to me about the most interesting thing you learned from this week's lesson.
- Do you have the same respect or regard for Scripture as Jesus did?
- How has Scripture helped you make decisions in your life?
- Is there anything in Scripture that you have a hard time accepting? If so, what is it?
- Describe your next steps based on what you've learned. How can I help?