

# THE GOSPEL



## Week 6: Communication. "Can I ask you a question?"

Mark 11.27-12.11

### OPEN

Welcome to our series called **"The Gospel"** (or good news) in which we have been reflecting on a different dimension of its message each week. For the last three weeks, we have been considering how to seek the good of Babylon (the city we live in) so that we go beyond merely surviving to thriving in a culture that has effectively "exiled" Christ-followers to the margins of influence? Specifically, we learned that *Hospitality* and *Blessing* are two key avenues through which to incarnate the Gospel as really Good News for "our" Babylonians. But what about when it comes to putting the good news into words—something that makes most of us uncomfortable.? That's today's focus.

### SHARE & RECONNECT

- Which of the 5 facets of the "Gospel" that we have covered so far has been the most "I never knew that" facet? What about it gave it that force?
- Which facet has impacted you the most in terms of your thinking, and therefore, acting?

### READING

- Read Mark 11.27-12.27
  - This section reports on three questions that Jesus was asked and how He responded to each of them.
  - List all the similarities and differences between these three encounters
  - Identify all the transferable insights when it comes to our conversations with our Babylonians about the Gospel

## REFLECT

- Thinking back to your last attempt to interact with a “Babylonian”
  - what went well and what “bombed”
  - If you have never had such conversations think about possible reasons and what changes in attitude and practice the Spirit might be nudging you towards
- Review the key insights into Jesus’ approach to answering “faith” questions that the Sunday sermon extracted from Mark 11.27-12.11
  - **Identify:** *where they are coming from?*
  - **Hook:** *respond to their question with a question aimed at getting them to say “I never thought of it that way before!”*
  - **Translate:** *share our (Gospel) message in their language, free of in-house, spiritual jargon*
  - **Justify:** *give reasons for our faith that is aimed at removing their intellectual roadblocks to Jesus*
- Consider the following and share
  - Which of the four elements above made you say “I never thought of sharing the good news that way before” and why?
  - Have you ever seen (or read about) one or more of these elements modelled effectively?
  - Which ones do you think you can begin to implement and which ones might take the most work
  - How can you equip yourself for the “justify” stage?

## PRAY

- For one another in the group in light of the preceding discussion
  - What attitudes need *changing*
  - What habits need *incorporating*
  - What knowledge needs *expanding*
- First in **silence**, asking the Spirit to bring a specific Babylonian to mind (one you already know or might get to know);
- Then **together** for them by name if possible
- For **Wellspring** church as a whole to increasingly become good “questioners”