

Anything...?

Mark 11.12–14, 20–25; John 14.12–14; 15.5–8, 16; 16.23–24

Introduction:

1. Read Mark 11 & explain scholars take on it. If he'd only said it here, we could leave some ambiguity with the statement, but he didn't leave it there. He took it a whole lot further – read John passages.
 - a. Look at the outcomes in the John passages – much fruit, much joy, answered prayers.
2. God's question to me while I was praying for a person's situation. "Why don't you just believe the whole thing?" I was praying for a situation with little faith b/c it was a long standing issue. The thought raced across my mind, "Am I going to pray like a 21st century American Christian or like a child with great confidence?"
3. He said: Anything. What does anything mean?

The Qualifications For Anything:

1. In Jesus' name
2. I Remain in Him and His Word remains in me
3. Truly Believe

What does it mean to ask in the name of Jesus? We think it's a good way of ending a prayer. It's like adding the zip code at the bottom of a letter, so it's sent to the right place.

The Power of Attorney

1. It means to have power of attorney
 - a. A person legally authorizes another to act on his behalf in legal, financial, business and/or health care matters. It's usually understood that the person with the power of attorney will always carry out the desires, whether directed or implied, by the grantor. You carry out His will.

- b. Jesus authorizes us to act on his behalf. By using His name, we are carrying out His will.
- 2. This puts prayer on a legal basis. I'm asking for or doing something on Jesus' behalf with His full authority, and weight behind it. Prayer is more than just bearing my heart to God; it is carrying out the will of God on earth as it is in Heaven.
- 3. Jesus is saying in these passages, "You ask the Father in my name; I'll endorse it; and the Father will give it to you." When we pray in Jesus' name, it is as though Jesus is doing the praying! Jesus is asking through your lips!
- 4. The Great Commission: I have been given all authority in Heaven and on earth...go make disciples...I am with you always. Jesus is still carrying out the will of His Father on earth through your life. You are His ambassador and whatever you do, in His name, it is as if He physically were doing it.
- 5. When we do anything in Jesus' name, it is he who is doing the work; when we ask anything in Jesus' name, it is he who is asking the Father. Js' work and prayers continue today through us.
- 6. The Power of Attorney is only as sweeping or strong as the grantor. If the person who granted the power of attorney only has a small estate and meager mends then the one serving as the attorney has limited means.
 - a. Illust - The power of attorney for a poor man & rich man.
- 7. Whatever is done by the attorney must honor the desires of the grantor.
 - a. Ill of having the power of attorney for your parents.
 - b. Scripture - 1 John 5.14f
- 8. Determining the will of Jesus today.
 - a. Everything He did and said is still His will today!
 - i. You don't ask if its Jesus' will to save people; we know its his will. The same is true of other things.
 - ii. How did he pray and/or how did he tells us to pray
 - b. Listening to how Jesus praye. How did Jesus pray? Addressing the Satan, sin, death & sickness during his day. Many declaratory prayers; even the Lord's prayer is in the imperative.
 - c. Promoting truth, love & His kingdom.

- d. Illust of paying your taxes. I know He hears me. I expect the release of financial resources, strategy or opportunity to meet those needs. It moves prayer from pleading to one of confidence & faith.
- 9. What if you aren't sure? Rom.8.26–28. The Spirit prays when we don't know what to say and He works everything out according to God's will.
 - a. "Groanings"
 - b. Praying in tongues – we are praying with our spirits

What's in a Name?

- 1. It's a more excellent name than any of the angels – Heb.1
- 2. It is the only name where salvation can be found – Acts 4
- 3. It is the name above every name – Phil.2
- 4. It is a name that conquered sin, Satan, death, disease, injustice and hell. Nothing can stand against it.
- 5. It is more than a title. It is its own weather system that can change an environment in a moment or over time (sometimes it's like leaven & other times it's like salt).
 - a. Ill. – Like the weather system that came into our yesterday. It changed the entire atmosphere.
 - b. When we pray with understanding in Jesus' name, we are bringing the weather system of heaven into an environment.
 - c. Ill – Iranian Christian ladies released from prison

The Example of Abortion Being Overturned

- 1. Science is catching up to the Bible
- 2. Society is changing its opinion
- 3. More states are legislating against it
- 4. Defunding of Planned Parenthood

Wearing the Name of Jesus

- 1. When I talk about authority in the name of Jesus, the authority is not in the word "Jesus", but in person of Jesus. You can't say "Jesus" 70xs and expect some great authority; the authority is realized when you understand the power of Jesus.

2. Eph.1.17–22. We need to come to understand His incredibly great power...that everything is under His control. When I ask for something in His name, it's with the understanding that He has control over it. It belongs to Him.
3. Illustr – Team Jersey with QB name on it. When I wear this jersey am I suggesting I am JJ Watt, Jose Altuve, James Hardin ? Could I go to a Texan's, Astros or Rockets game and get out and play? The name only means I'm a fan. The coach wouldn't entrust me to replace that player.
4. It's different when I put on the Jesus jersey. I'm not wearing it to show that I'm a Jesus fan (though I am). It means Jesus has put me in the game. I am playing & praying like him. I am doing His business as Him. I am carrying out His game plan with His full approval and authority. Jesus isn't literally in the game any longer; he left the game and has empowered us to take His place. We are wearing His name, using His authority to carry out His will on earth.
5. Remember Power of Attorney. He has authorized you to carry out His will in His name.
 - a. Illust – Praying for your marriage. But it's both faith & works. You have to be responsive to the people, resources, impressions and circumstances he sends.
 - b. You have the same authority He had while on earth. You have been grafted into that vine so that there is no difference in the life that flows through you and Him.

Conclusion: Power of attorney: Jesus authorizes you to act on his behalf. By using His name, you are carrying out His will with His approval and power and the full resources of Heaven and earth behind it.

Lab – Based on what you know about Jesus both in words and actions, how would he pray for your greatest need?

Why don't you just believe the whole thing? Quit making excuses, explain away, rationalize and just be like a child and believe while living in the mystery.

