

A Refuge of Lies  
Matthew 21:23-27

# LGBTQ Forum:

God's Design for Sexuality and Gender

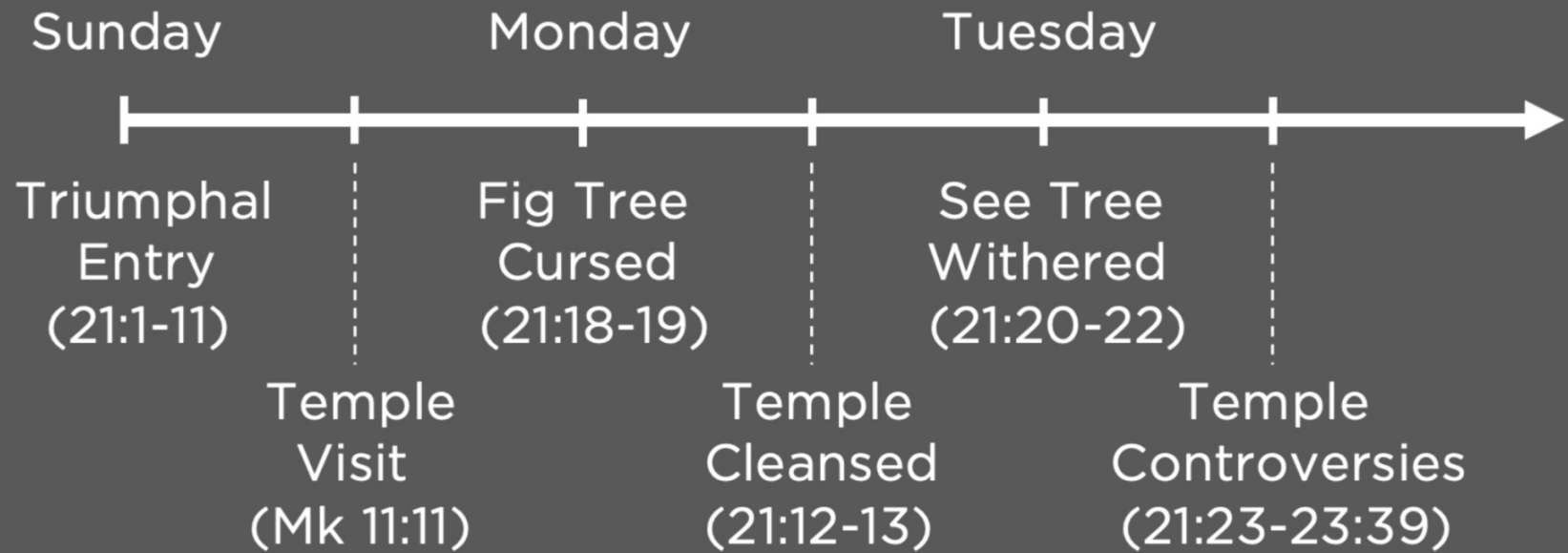
**Open for everyone!**

April 27 @ 7 p.m.

Register online

“Who gave you this authority?” (23)

## Passion Week in Jerusalem



## Temple Controversies (21:23 - 23:39)

## Temple Controversies (21:23 - 23:39)

**Opening Test** - Leaders question Jesus's authority (21:23-27)

## Temple Controversies (21:23 - 23:39)

**Opening Test** - Leaders question Jesus's authority (21:23-27)

**3 Parables** - Jesus exposes the leaders (21:28 - 22:14)

## Temple Controversies (21:23 - 23:39)

**Opening Test** - Leaders question Jesus's authority (21:23-27)

**3 Parables** - Jesus exposes the leaders (21:28 - 22:14)

**3 Tests** - Leaders question Jesus (22:15-46)

## Temple Controversies (21:23 - 23:39)

**Opening Test** - Leaders question Jesus's authority (21:23-27)

**3 Parables** - Jesus exposes the leaders (21:28 - 22:14)

**3 Tests** - Leaders question Jesus (22:15-46)

**Climax** - Jesus asks, "Whose son is the Christ?"

## Temple Controversies (21:23 - 23:39)

- Opening Test** - Leaders question Jesus's authority (21:23-27)
- 3 Parables** - Jesus exposes the leaders (21:28 - 22:14)
- 3 Tests** - Leaders question Jesus (22:15-46)
- Climax - Jesus asks, "Whose son is the Christ?"
- 7 Woes** - Jesus warns people of the leaders (23:1-36)

## Temple Controversies (21:23 - 23:39)

**Opening Test** - Leaders question Jesus's authority (21:23-27)

**3 Parables** - Jesus exposes the leaders (21:28 - 22:14)

**3 Tests** - Leaders question Jesus (22:15-46)

Climax - Jesus asks, "Whose son is the Christ?"

**7 Woes** - Jesus warns people of the leaders (23:1-36)

**Final lament** - over Jerusalem (23:37-39)

## Temple Controversies (21:23 - 23:39)

**Opening Test** - Leaders question Jesus's authority (21:23-27)

**3 Parables** - Jesus exposes the leaders (21:28 - 22:14)

**3 Tests** - Leaders question Jesus (22:15-46)

Climax - Jesus asks, "Whose son is the Christ?"

**7 Woes** - Jesus warns people of the leaders (23:1-36)

**Final lament** - over Jerusalem (23:37-39)

**Discourse #5** - Sermon on Mount of Olives (24-25)

“And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching . . .” (23a)

Four parts to this interchange

1. The leaders ask Jesus **a question.**

1. The leaders ask Jesus **a question**.

“By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” (23b)

2. Jesus answers their question with a question.

2. Jesus answers their question with a question.

“The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” (25a)

3. The leaders **discuss among themselves.**

3. The leaders **discuss among themselves.**

“If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’”

3. The leaders **discuss among themselves.**

“But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.

3. The leaders **discuss among themselves.**

“So they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’”

They fear two things:

“If we say, ‘From heaven,’”  
we may appear **intellectually inconsistent**.

“If we say, ‘From heaven,’”

we may appear **intellectually inconsistent.**

“If we say, ‘From man,’”

we may become **socially marginalized.**

4. Jesus **refuses** to answer their **question**.

4. Jesus **refuses** to answer their **question**.

“And he said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.’” (27b)

So what is the big idea of this interchange?

So what is the big idea of this interchange?

\* Jesus refuses to reveal himself to liars.

“Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

“Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.” Revelation 22:14-15

“everyone who loves and practices falsehood”

“falsehood” (pseudos) = lie, deception,  
what is false

“falsehood” (pseudos) = lie, deception,  
what is false

pseudo = false, fake, pretend

“Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,

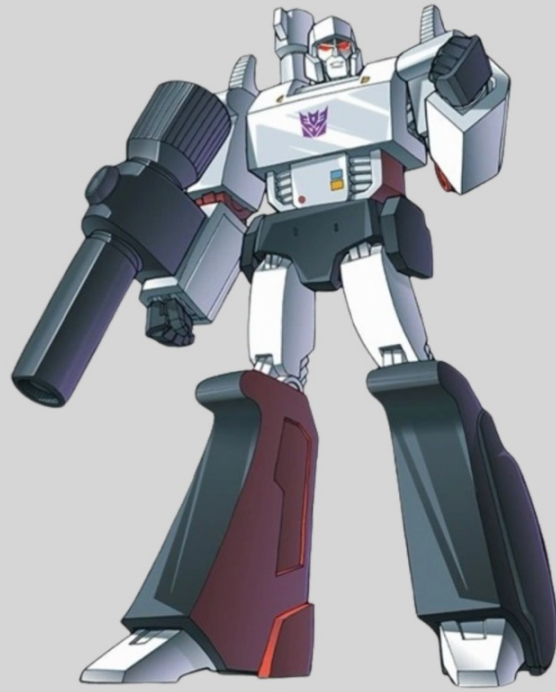
“because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.” Romans 1:24-25

“Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.”

Ephesians 4:25



Syndrome



Megatron

“. . . for we have made lies our refuge, and in falsehood we have taken shelter”;

Isaiah 28:15b

“And I will make justice the line,  
and righteousness the plumb line;  
and hail will sweep away the refuge of lies,  
and waters will overwhelm the shelter.”

Isaiah 28:17

“therefore thus says the Lord GOD,  
‘Behold, I am the one who has laid as a  
foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone,

“a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: “Whoever believes will not be in haste.””

Isaiah 28:16

“Whoever believes will not be in haste.”

Isaiah 28:16b

“Whoever believes will not be in haste.”

Isaiah 28:16b

haste = panic, reckless reactivity

“Give ear, and hear my voice;  
give attention, and hear my speech.”

Isaiah 28:23

Questions to consider

Can you think of a **pressure** in your life that may tempt you to try to find **safety in a lie**?

What does this lie **promise to provide**?

How do the words and the way of Jesus take us to a better place?